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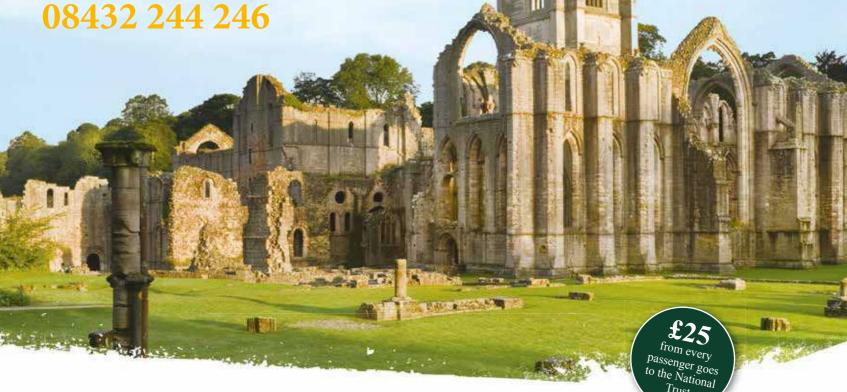


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EDITOR'S LETTER



This issue I managed to escape the confines of my desk and venture to a place that had long been on my wish list,

the Isle of Skye. You can read about my travels and the allure of western Scotland in Land of the Clans (p6), in fact I'm fairly confident that it will soon be on your wish list too.

In 2016 we celebrate the Year of the English Garden, alongside the 300th anniversary of the birth of the man who transformed our stately grounds. In The Legacy of Capability Brown (p24) we visit some of the finest examples of the landscape architect's work, to bring you our nation's grandest parks and palaces.

If, like us, you prefer nothing to curling up with a good book then you'll certainly want to turn your attention to A Little Literary Inspiration (p39) to find out how you can stay in places that inspired some of our greatest writers - including the hotel where the Sherlock Holmes tales were shaped.

Finally, this issue we explore the uprising that nearly tore the country apart, the English Civil War, in King or Country (p63), do you know where your allegiances would have lain?

Sally Coffey, Editor



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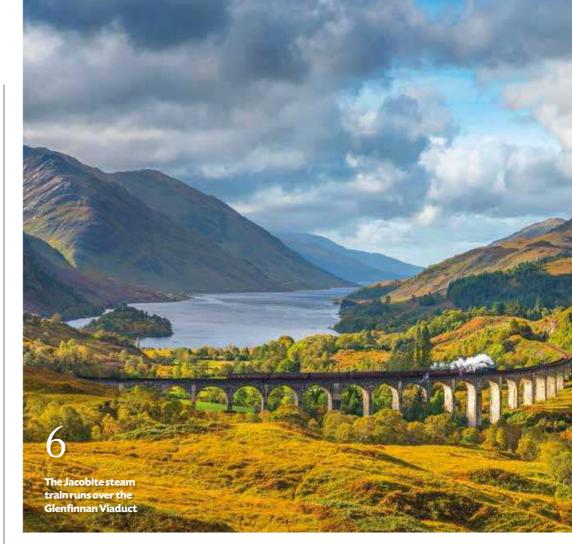
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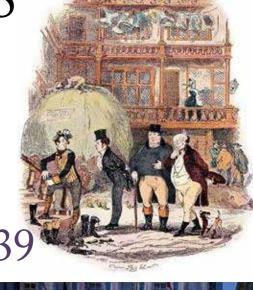
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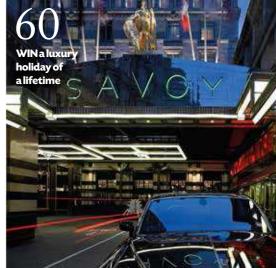
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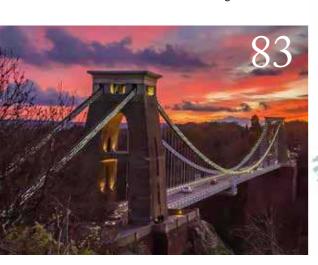
This harbourside city is home to a rich maritime heritage, the oldest working theatre in Britain and bustling markets

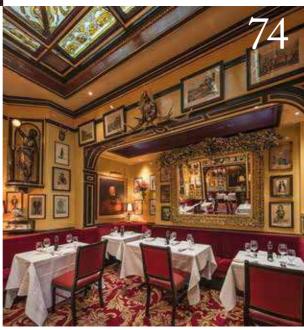
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Let us guide you through the weird and wonderful world of Oxbridge traditions







BRITAIN

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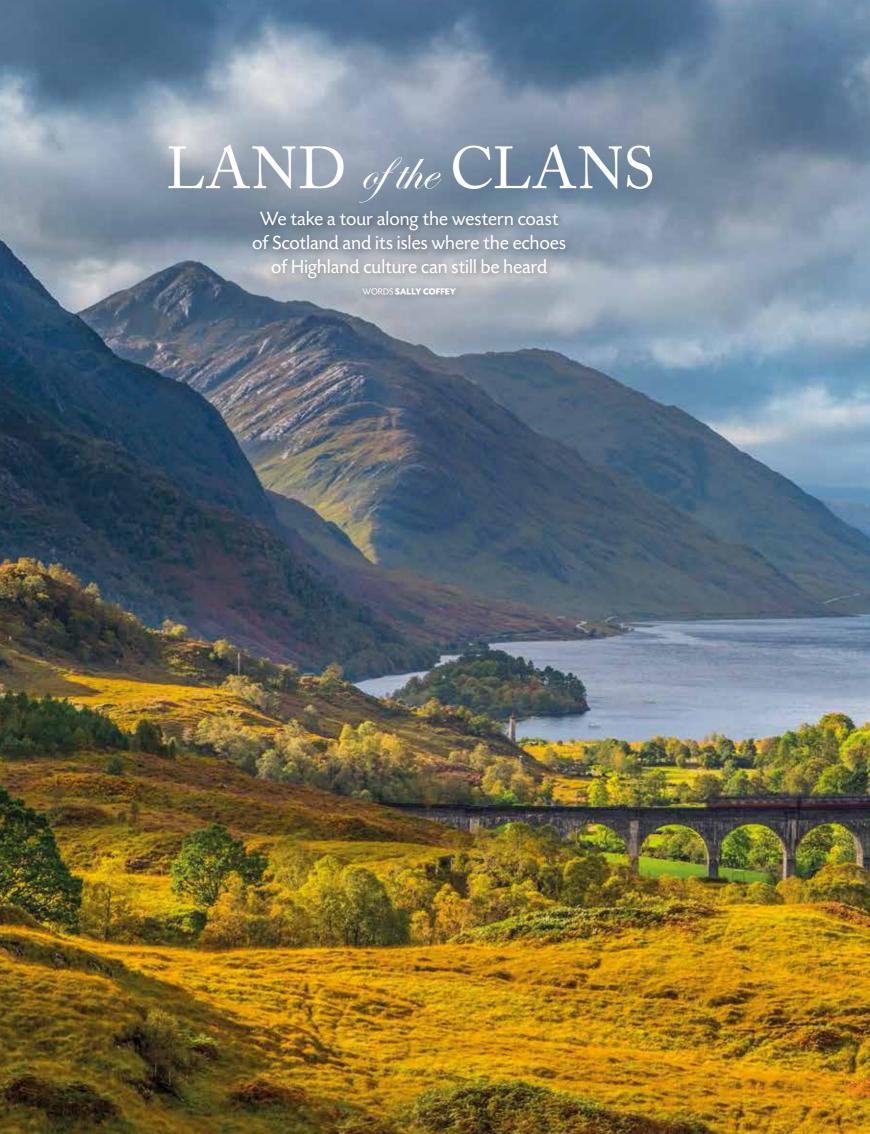
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n the far reaches of Britain lies a land so atmospheric that it conjures images of strange spirits, where myths of giants and fairies have been passed down through local folklore for centuries and where the heritage of its ancestors endures.

Western Scotland has a dramatic and wild landscape that includes mountain peaks, glacial sea lochs and a profusion of islands, from the remote Outer Hebrides (known as the Western Isles) to the natural beauty of the Inner Hebrides. In this region clans once reigned supreme. Scottish clan culture was certainly well established in the Highlands of Scotland by the 11th and 12th centuries but its origins go back much further to the 6th century.

The word 'clan' comes from the Gaelic 'clann' for children and refers to family groups who yielded power over certain territories, which they protected fiercely, often with bloody results,

as anyone who has seen the recent film adaptation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, starring Michael Fassbender in the title role, will attest.

Much of *Macbeth*, which is set in Scotland in the Middle Ages, was filmed on Skye, the largest of the Inner Hebrides islands, which was once dominated by two rival clans, the MacDonalds and the MacLeods. It's easy to see why Skye was chosen as the backdrop to the film as the ancient landscape, which comprises many munros (mountain peaks over 3,000ft), has virtually escaped the ravages of time and its nickname as the Misty Isle is well deserved, adding to the sense of mystery and drama.

While the main mountain range of the Cuillin, which runs through the southern half of the island, was formed 60 million years ago and carved by the glaciers of the last Ice Age, the island's origins go back even further – at An Corran beach in Staffin, on the east coast of



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Top to bottom: Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum; in recent years clan traditions have been revived; spectacular light over the Trotternish on the Isle of Skye

the Trotternish peninsula, you can even see footprints (when the tide is right) left by a family of Ornithopods (herbivorous dinosaurs that stood on two feet) who walked across it 165 million years ago.

Skye is the gateway for many to the Small Isles of Canna, Rum, Eigg and Muck and the Western Isles, which include Lewis and Harris, as well as St Kilda, the most remote outpost of the British Isles, and the journey here is all part of the adventure.

From London you can fly to Inverness or Glasgow and make your way by bus, train or car, but our favoured route is to book a berth on the Caledonian Sleeper train from London's Euston, where uniformed staff will greet you at night, and show you to your cabin, where you can lay your head before waking up the following morning in Scotland.

Agatha Christie it isn't but it has a certain dated charm, complete with its own lounge car, and in 2018 it will be upgraded with 75 new carriages, including en-suite berths and a brasserie-style Club Car. You can get the Sleeper train all the way to Fort William from where it's just over an hour's train journey along the West Highland Line to Mallaig where you can catch the ferry to Skye, or you can jump off at Glasgow for a more leisurely journey along the line often touted as the most beautiful train route in the world.

The West Highland Line certainly lives up to the hype: mile after mile of beautiful countryside is broken only by hidden lochs, framed with hills of gold, brown and green, and lush forests. There is so much space and so few people and cars you can almost taste the undiluted air. From May to October you can get the Jacobite steam train from Fort William, which lies in the shadow of Ben Nevis, to Mallaig for a real vintage ride. The route goes over the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct – famous for its role in the *Harry Potter* franchise of films – and there is an old-fashioned dining car and museum to be enjoyed at Glenfinnan station.

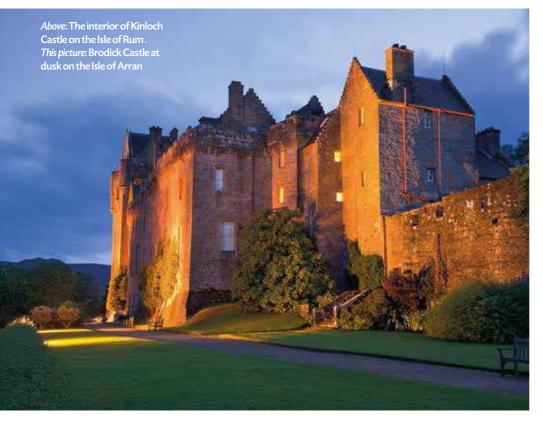
Skye is so magical that it's easy to see the inspiration behind its myriad legends. The Fairy Flag at Dunvegan Castle is just one story to survive. The flag is said to have been given to a chief of the Clan MacLeod, whose fairy lover became homesick and bid him farewell at the nearby Fairy Bridge. The story goes that at times of attack the flag enabled the clan to multiply its forces and brought untold luck to the clan.



Western Scotland



PHOTOS: © ROBERT HARDING PICTURE LIBRARY LTD/ALAMY/SCOTTISH VIEW



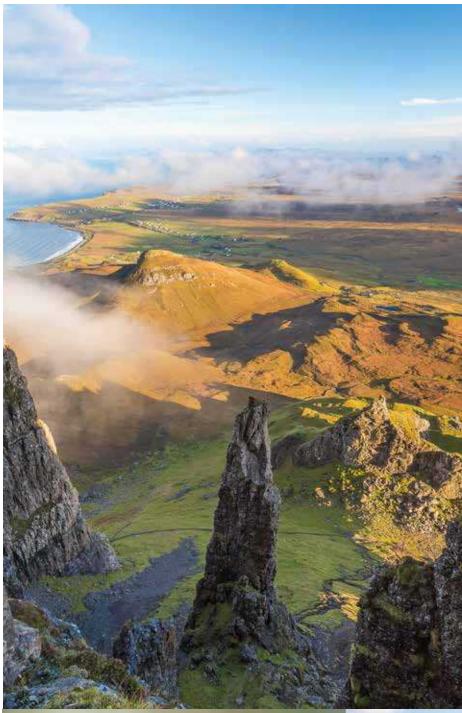
It was also on Skye that one of the biggest heroes in Scottish history, Bonnie Prince Charlie, made good his escape from marauding British forces following the defeat of his rebellious Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Charlie was smuggled to Skye from the island of Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides by Flora Macdonald (he was disguised as her Irish spinning maid Betty Burke). The grave of Flora, who is held up as a heroine, is at Kilmuir, to the west of the supernatural landscape of the Quiraing, a craggy land on the north Trotternish where you will find baffling peaks and buttresses, while to the south of the Trotternish is the pinnacle of the Old Man of Storr, which some say is the thumb of a giant who became buried in the earth.

The brave hearted can visit Prince Charlie's Cave, near Elgol, on the south of Skye, where the Bonnie Prince is said to have spent his last night on the island. From Elgol you can take a trip with Bella Jane boats to Loch Coruisk, one of the most remote lochs in Scotland, where seals bathe, puffins feed and legend has it that a kelpie, or spirit of a water horse, resides.



Western Scotland



Clockwise from top: The jagged Needle on the Quiraing; Highland cattle graze in front of Ben Nevis; this region is a great place to spot puffins

Elgol also offers tours to the Small Isles, an archipelago south of Skye and north of Mull; alternatively you can reach them via ferry from Mallaig or Arisaig on the mainland. The island of Rum was home to Scotland's first settlers, who arrived around 7500BC. These isles also witnessed the development of early Christianity in Britain – there was a monastery on Eigg and a nunnery on Canna – before Viking invasion in the 8th century. The Small Isles came back into Scottish hands in 1266.

The islands' residents were strong supporters of the Jacobite cause, but following defeat at Culloden they fell on hard times as the British government sought to dismantle clan culture to eliminate future rebellions – speaking the native language of Gaelic became a hanging offence and the wearing of Highland dress was banned. Later, a population explosion caused by the introduction of the potato led to eventual forced clearances of the islands.

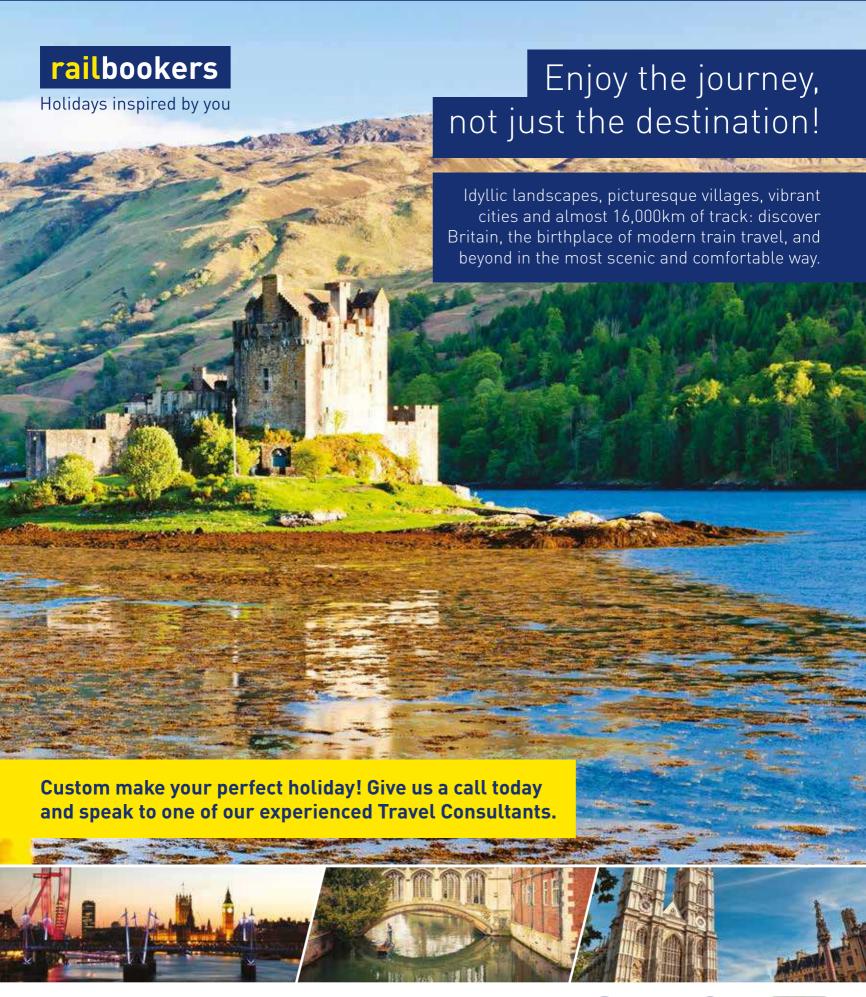
Today, Laird Lawrence MacEwen privately owns the island of Muck but it is open to visitors and a few welcoming accommodation options are available. The most visited island, however, is Rum, which boasts the Victorian mansion of Kinloch Castle, while the high basalt cliffs of Canna, now owned by the National Trust for Scotland, attract their own admirers.

Further south, off the coast of Mull, Fingal's Cave, on the uninhabited island of Staffa, is famous for its natural acoustics, and was immortalised by poet James Macpherson in the 18th century and later by German composer Felix Mendelssohn, who wrote his overture, *The Hebrides*, following a visit in 1829.





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Western Scotland

Made up of similar basalt columns as the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland, it forms the other half of the Finn McCool legend – it was supposedly to here that the Irish giant built a causeway so that he could confront his Scottish nemesis Benandonner, who ran back to Staffa, tearing up the causeway in his wake when he saw the size of Finn's baby son (who was McCool in disguise) fearful for how big his father must be.

Closer to the mainland is the Isle of Arran, one of the most accessible of the Scottish isles, which is home to Brodick Castle, the Victorian estate that is the only island country park in Britain and which houses an incredible collection of artefacts.

Arran can be reached by a short ferry ride from Ardrossan Harbour, which is linked by train to Glasgow, but if you want to explore this region in more comfort, then Argyll Cruising offers a selection of routes from Holy Loch Marina, near Dunoon, including the Hebridean Odyssey Cruise, which takes in Arran, Skye, Jura and Iona.

While the Duke of Cumberland (son of King George II) and his army did their best to undermine clan culture in Scotland in the

aftermath of Culloden, its memory survives in the hearts of many and slowly, over the centuries, traditions have been revived. Today the Gaelic language is still spoken in some parts, including Staffin on Skye, and events such as the Highland Games, which began in the 18th century, draw on the traditions of hammer throwing, piping and the famous Highland fling. Scottish heritage runs deep here; it is, after all, in the blood.

For more reviews and photos go to www.britain-magazine.com/westernscotland

Below: Anyone who has read Gavin Maxwell's Ring of Bright Water will be delighted to see similar wild otters basking on the rocks

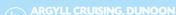


THE PLANNER



From London Euston you can catch the Caledonian Sleeper train all the way to Scotland, embarking at Glasgow or Fort William. From May to October don't miss the chance to catch the gloriously refined Jacobite steam train where you can even indulge in afternoon tea while the scenery unfolds before you.

www.sleeper.scot; www.westcoastrailways.co.uk



These intimate cruises – there's a maximum of eight guests – on board a smart trawler yacht, offer nine Scottish cruises ranging from 3 to 13 nights, visiting the inlets and islands of wild Argyll, Arran and the Outer Hebrides. www.argyllcruising.com

SCORRYBREAC, PORTREE, SKYE

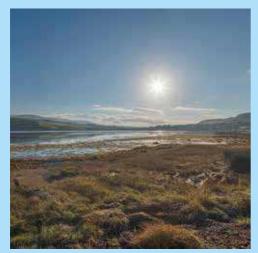
At this intimate restaurant overlooking the colourful harbour of Portree, on Skye, the focus is on fresh, local ingredients (below left) and the attention to detail is high. Owner Calum Munro initially opened it as a pop-up a few doors along in his parents' front room, but the 20-cover restaurant is now adding to the growing culinary scene on Skye, which includes two Michelin-starred restaurants. www.scorrybreac.com

WOODLANDS COTTAGE, SKYE

If you're looking for a cosy bolthole in which to base yourself on your visit to Skye, then Woodlands Cottage, set on the edge of Loch Snizort, with stunning views (top left) across to the Quiraing, is it. Inside, it is well equipped with plenty of warm tartan blankets to wrap up in as you watch the night sky from the comfort of the conservatory. A week's rental in spring costs from £423 (\$653). www.sykescottages.co.uk

KILMICHAEL COUNTRY HOUSE, ISLE OF ARRAN

Recently named Scottish Hotel of the Year in the Good Hotel Guide 2016, this small hotel, built on land granted by Robert the Bruce in the 14th century, offers five-star accommodation (including some four-poster beds), plus delicious homemade ice cream, bread and jams. www.kilmichael.com





HIDDEN TREASURES

Get off the beaten track with one of these unique tours with Ammoun Voyages

cotland is full of secrets waiting to be discovered, from the fascinating history of ancient Earldoms and fairy-tale castles to unique crofting traditions and beautiful landscapes. What becomes clear as you explore Scotland is how its imposing, at times harsh, landscapes have shaped its people, culture and crafts.

Edinburgh-based cultural tours company Ammoun Voyages offers two unique journeys led by historian, Scottish crafts expert and native Shetlander, Sarah Laurenson. On these journeys you'll explore the relationships between the land and the people, from craft and croft traditions in the Shetland Isles to the little-known story of Scotland's 19th-century Gold Rush.

In 1818 a nugget of gold was found in Kildonan Burn, Sutherland, north-east Scotland. By the 1860s people flocked from all over the world in search of fortunes. A township named Baile an Or (Gaelic, for 'Town of Gold') emerged on the ancient estate of the Dukes of Sutherland and diggers traded gold with craftsmen who would create beautiful revivalist jewellery. Today, surviving pieces of Sutherland gold jewellery are imbued with poignant stories of this era of economic and social upheaval. Gold and silver have been unearthed in Scotland and fashioned into jewellery for thousands of years. In the Trossachs, operations recently recommenced to unearth an estimated 6,000kg of gold and 26,000kg of silver.



The first of two unique journeys offered by Ammoun Voyages helps you uncover the history of Scotland's 'bust and boom' gold-rush of the 19th century. You will visit Dunrobin Castle for a special access viewing of rare 19th-century jewellery made from Sutherland gold; try your hand at gold-panning; visit a whisky distillery to savour whisky made with water that runs over seams of gold; and – via Loch Ness – there will be an option to visit a contemporary gold mine in the Trossachs National Park. This tour also offers luxurious accommodation in castles and lodges.

The subarctic archipelago of the Shetland Isles are Britain's most northerly inhabited isles. During summer, Shetland's green rolling landscapes and wild coastlines never quite see darkness, with the sun dipping only just below the northern horizon. The fabulous light of the resulting five-hour gloaming is known in the local dialect as 'Simmer Dim'. Here, Scottish and Norse heritage have mingled, adapting to this unforgiving yet beautifully rugged land, creating the unique and vibrant culture we see today.

Ammoun Voyages' journey to Shetland combines visiting the island's scenic treasures with meeting craftsmen and crofters. You will explore the rugged coastlines of Eashaness, the isles of Yell, Unst and St Ninian's, home to Britain's largest active tombolo, where several bird species nest and the famous St Ninian's treasure of gold and silver was discovered in 1958. You will visit textiles makers, basket weavers, glassblowers, painters and chocolatiers in their studios and take dinner with a local storyteller and folk musicians, it is a truly unique experience.

Ammoun Voyages specialises in creating themed holidays to different destinations, led by experts.

* For more information visit www.ammounvoyages.co.uk, call +44 (0)330 223 2213 or email info@ammounvoyages.co.uk

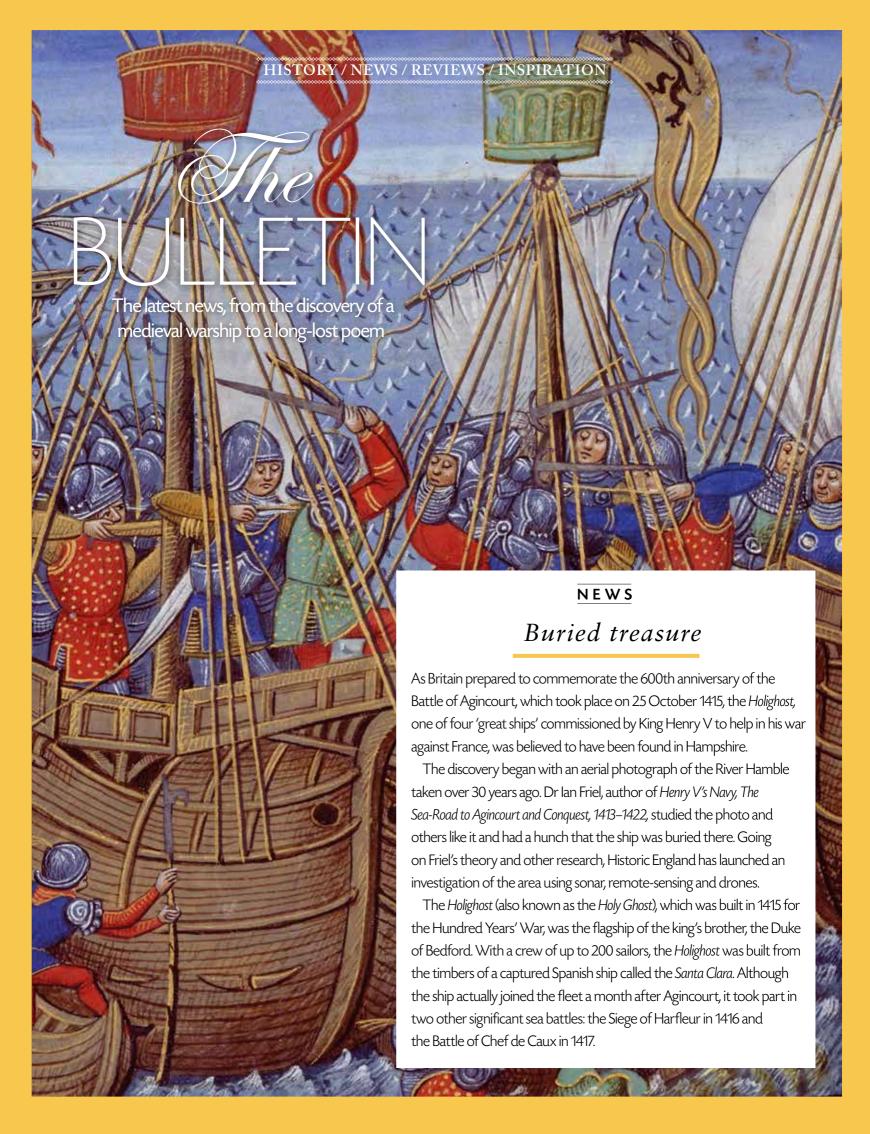


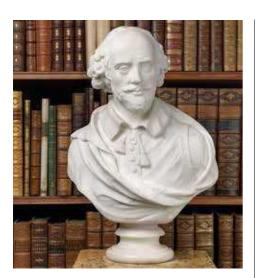
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EXHIBITION

Shakespeare at Windsor Castle

Marking the 400th anniversary of the Bard of Avon's death, Shakespeare in the Royal Library opens at Windsor Castle on 13 February and runs until 1 January 2017. Look out for the white marble bust of Shakespeare (above), thought to have been made by the 18th-century sculptor John Cheere and acquired by King George IV to be placed in the Grand Corridor at Windsor Castle; the manuscript A *Description of the Honor of Windesor* by John Norden, which shows Windsor Castle and the surrounding areas as Shakespeare would have known it and portrayed it in his comedy The Merry Wives of Windsor; Shakespearean works collected by the Royal Family; accounts of performances at Windsor Castle; and art by members of the Royal Family inspired by his plays. www.royalcollection.org.uk



NEWS

Poetry in motion

A lost revolutionary poem by the great English Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley has become the 12 millionth book in the historic collections at the Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford. Published in 1811, during Shelley's first year at Oxford University but considered lost until 2006, Poetical Essay on the Existing State of Things caused a wave of excitement when it resurfaced a decade ago. The poem was written as a response to Britain's involvement in the Napoleonic Wars.

Until now, however, the printed pamphlet containing the poem, which is the only known copy in existence, has only been seen by a handful of scholars and, thus, unavailable to students, scholars and lovers of poetry. The purchase by the Bodleian Libraries makes this rare poem available to scholars, students and the general public for the very first time. You can view it for free at poeticalessay.bodleian.ox.ac.uk



SHOPPING

Winter warmer

Perfect for those long winter evenings, whether you're out for a country walk or snuggling in an armchair by the fire, this wonderfully warm and stylish scarf, priced at £45 (\$69), comes in a rich palette of hues. The scarf is woven from lambswool by British design studio Wallace#Sewell, which was established by Royal College of Art graduates Harriet Wallace-Jones and Emma Sewell in 1990. The studio specialises in luxurious woven fabrics and works closely with Mitchell Interflex, a family mill in Lancashire. www.shop.nationaltrust.org.uk



DAY TRIPS 1066 and all that

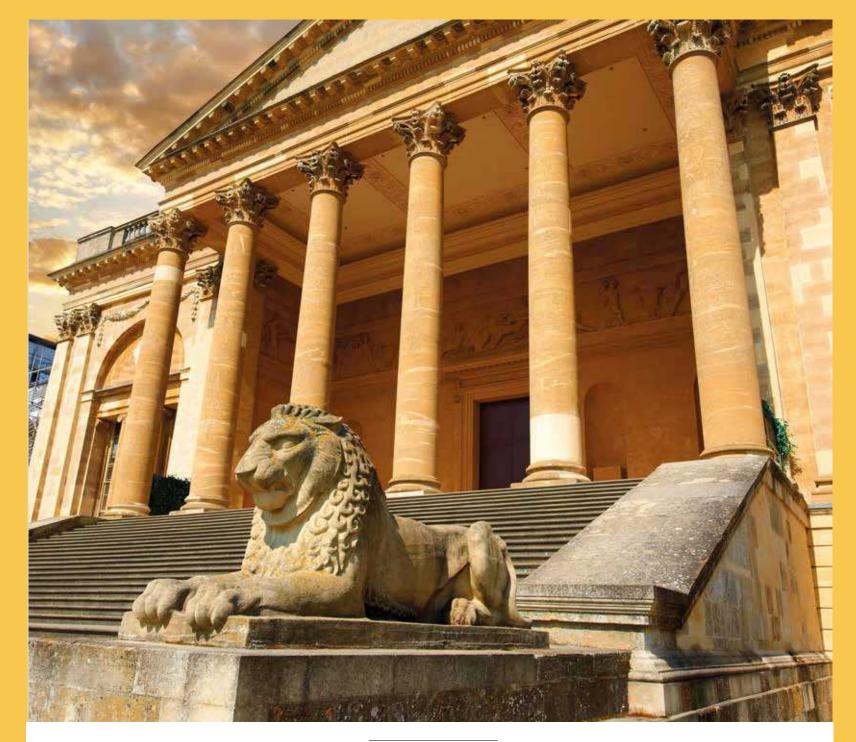
It's the best-known date in British history: 1066, when William of Normandy defeated the army of King Harold of England at the Battle of Hastings.

To mark the 950th anniversary of that famous battle, visitors to the site of the Battle of Hastings, in East Sussex, will be able to enjoy a bird's-eye-view of the landscape for the first time next summer.

As part of its re-presentation of the 1066 site, English Heritage will open up the roof of the Great Gatehouse of Battle Abbey, founded by William the Conqueror as penance for the bloodshed caused.

Inside the Great Gatehouse, a new exhibition will explore the lead-up to and legacy of the battle, including an account of the day itself. The project is just one part of English Heritage's 1066: Year of the Normans' anniversary programme. www.english-heritage.org.uk/battleabbey





Back to school

Visitors have flocked to see the beauty of Stowe, a Grade I listed country house in Buckinghamshire, for more than 300 years.

Owned by the Temple-Grenville family, the first property was built on the estate in 1680, and its development and later decline mirrored the family's fortunes.

The house was saved from ruin in 1923 when it became the home of the prestigious Stowe School. Now it is owned by the Stowe House Preservation Trust, which has spent millions of pounds on restoration, with work still ongoing.

The beautiful gardens were created in the 1740s by Capability Brown, who married his wife, Bridget Wayet, at Stowe (see page 32), and the landscaping is full of hidden meaning – its design was used to rail against political opponents of the day. Owned by the National Trust, the grounds are also undergoing significant restoration. The house is open to the public on 280 days of the year with tours during the school holidays, and during term-time. The parkland surrounding the gardens is open 365 days a year. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe



Charcoal-seared wood pigeon

This dish of charcoal-seared wood pigeon, with hedgerow blackberries, barbecued kales, toasted seeds, and winter savory, works beautifully as a seasonal starter and was created by Kevin Tickle, head chef at Forest Side Hotel in Ambleside, a keen forager.

Ingredients:

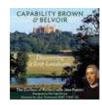
2 wood pigeon crowns	10g (0.35oz) sugar
(best to buy pre-plucked for home use)	5ml (0.2fl oz) white wine vinegar
8 cavolo nero leaves	500ml (17 fl oz) brown chicken stock
8 jagallo nero leaves	15g (0.5oz) winter savory (or thyme)
100g (3.5oz) freshly picked blackberries	20g (0.7oz) mixed seeds

Method:

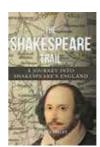
Reduce the brown stock by two-thirds, add savory and infuse for 20 minutes, strain and set aside. Toast the seeds gently in butter, then drain excess butter, season and leave to cool on a piece of kitchen cloth. Stew blackberries in a pan with the sugar and vinegar, puree, strain and leave to cool. Season then sear the pigeon crown on a hot barbecue until a decent colour is achieved. Cook for around six minutes at 180°C (356°F). Rest in a warm place to gently cook through (the edge of the barbecue works well) or place half the kales on the barbecue (in the coolest area along the edges) and gently cook until charred and crispy, constantly turning helps control the heat in order to get it crispy. To serve, heat the remaining kales in a pan of buttery emulsion, remove and drain the excess liquid. Carve the pigeon from the crown and remove skin (also check for shot). Arrange all on a plate (as in the picture) and finish with the savory gravy.

READING CORNER

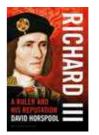
Cosy up in your favourite chair and lose yourself in one of these books



Capability Brown & Belvoir by the Duchess of Rutland with Jane Purden (£35, Nick McCann Associates). The discovery of Brown's plans for Belvoir Castle inspired this beautiful hardback.



The Shakespeare
Trail by Zoe Bramley
(£20, Amberley
Publishing). This
practical guidebook
explores the many
places dear to the Bard
and his characters on
the 400th anniversary
of his death.



Richard III by David Horspool (£20, Bloomsbury). In the wake of the discovery of Richard III's bones, Horspool reexamines the life of this enigmatic monarch and our enduring interest in him.



Winston Churchill Reporting by Simon Read (£17.79, Da Capo Press). This biography traces the famous orator and wartime leader's formative years, working as a war correspondent.



Henrietta Maria by
Dominic Pearce (£20,
Amberley Publishing).
The French wife of
King Charles I was a
controversial figure
in Stuart England and
central to the narrative
of the English Civil War.

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Can true love happen twice in a lifetime?

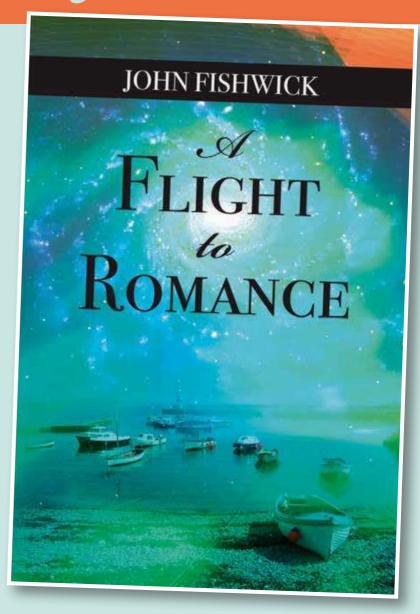
Find out in John Fishwick's debut novel.

It was true, she had thought his science trips would be a little tedious, but they were actually quite fascinating, and she was intrigued by his big quest.

Jeremy Rowlands lives a quiet life as an astronomy professor at the University of Florida. When he loses his wife in a car accident, Jeremy leaps at the opportunity to spend three weeks in England to reevaluate his new role in life.

Meanwhile, Stephanie Marks embarks on a trip to visit the historic homes of famous British authors. As a retired English teacher who lost her husband to cancer, she has finally settled into a resigned solitude. When Jeremy and Stephanie meet on the same flight, their lively and meaningful conversation sparks something in them both.

Their decision to become traveling companions for the remainder of the trip allows their tenuous bond to grow, forcing them both to face a painful question: *Is it really possible to fall in love again?*

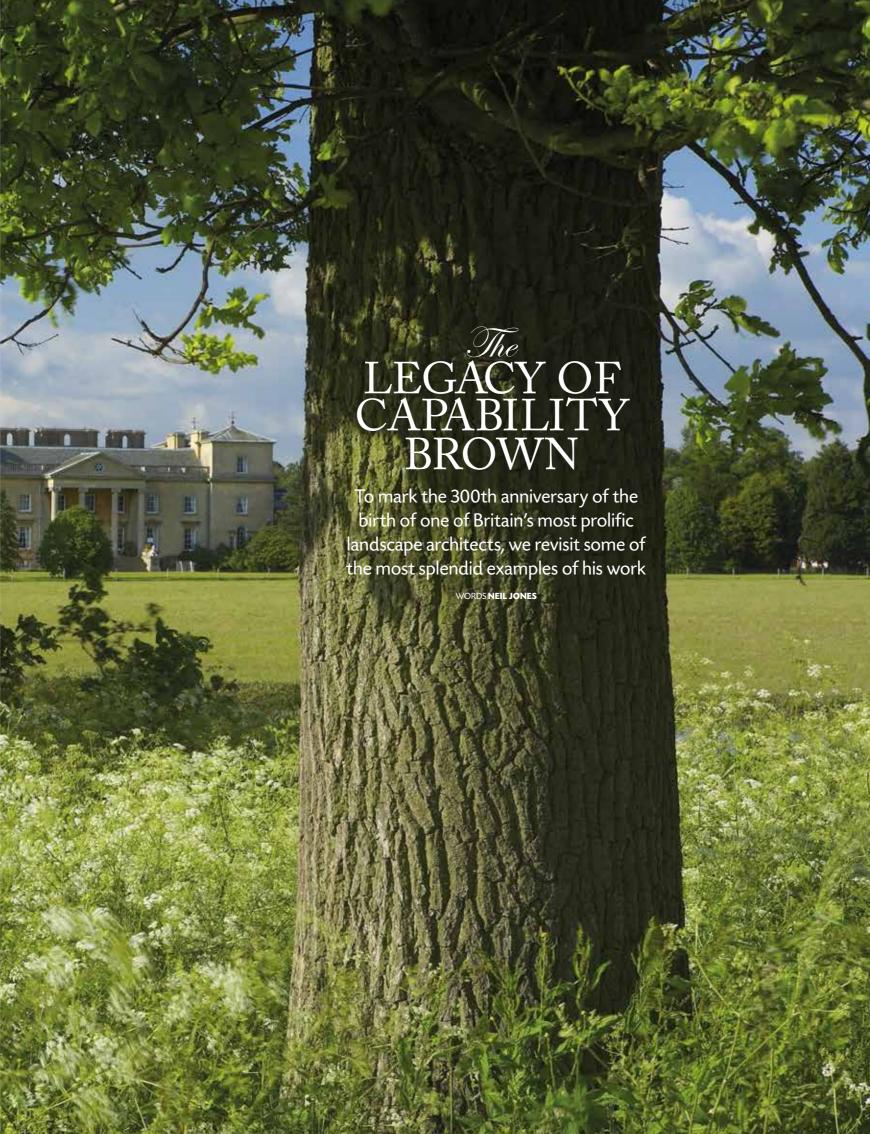


A thoughtful reflection on everything from art and science to romance and relationships, A Flight to Romance's raw emotion will captivate even the most casual reader.

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he revolutionary landscape style that
Lancelot 'Capability' Brown brought to
the great houses of England in the 18th
century is now synonymous with our
image of stately homes. The likes of William Kent before
him and Humphry Repton afterwards also coaxed
wealthy clients to abandon earlier fashions for formal
gardens in the Tudor, Dutch and French manner. But it is
Brown who is most famous for the landscape tradition
that came to epitomise Englishness, setting our grand
houses in (artfully contrived) Edens of parkland.

Weston Park's sweeping views from the Temple of Diana, across sheep-dotted grass to the redbrick 17th-century house and merging with the distant Shropshire hills are typical of Brown's naturalistic style, says Martin Gee, head gardener at the grand estate near Shifnal. Martin has been preparing to welcome visitors for the 300th anniversary in 2016 of the birth of the master landscaper who was born Lancelot Brown in 1716 – the moniker came later.

"You can imagine people in days gone by arriving in their horse-drawn coaches, catching glimpses of the house as it was revealed and then hidden again by cleverly planted clumps of trees and contours of the landscape: that's classic Capability Brown," he enthuses.

Also classic is what visitors didn't see – the ha-has (sunken fences) to keep cattle or sheep in Brown's pastoral heaven from trespassing too close to the house; the prodigious earth-moving, hill-lowering and removal of regimented avenues necessary to create the 'natural' park look.

Brown was well established when Sir Henry Bridgeman paid him £1,725 in the 1760s to reshape 1,000 acres at his Weston Park home. In addition to meadows, Brown created leafy Shrewsbury Walk and Temple Wood, two rare examples of his pleasure grounds to survive intact – his walled garden

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still provides fruit and herbs to Weston's chef. Architect James Paine completed the Arcadian idyll with a 'Roman' bridge over Temple Pool and the Temple of Diana on the wood's edge, where the Bridgeman family entertained guests with tea, recitals and views – and even a menagerie of exotic birds.

In the lead-up to the countrywide Capability Brown 300 Festival – 2016 has also been declared the Year of the English Garden – Martin and his team have been re-opening original Brownian vistas at Weston Park (including clearing away rhododendrons). To this end, the Temple of Diana has been refurbished as an extraordinary holiday let offering visitors the chance to immerse themselves in Brown's landscapes.

If you don't wish to stay overnight, you can also explore as a day visitor – the present Earl of Bradford gifted Weston to the nation in 1986. Among artworks in the house that reveal 300 years of aristocratic dramas, look for a painting of champion ploughman John Gee who came to work on the estate in 1803, beginning a remarkable, unbroken family tradition of employment that continues to this day with Martin.

The 250 landscapes attributed to Capability Brown on the interactive map of the tercentenary website





(www.capabilitybrown.org), many of them open to the public, offer a roll call of top historic estates: from Stowe to Warwick Castle, Burghley House to Chatsworth, Blenheim Palace to Longleat. It's mind-boggling to imagine Brown's burly figure in his green worsted jacket striding across just so many sites in his 30-year freelance career, his ruddy face crowned by a frizzy grey wig and eyes twinkling as he cheerfully advised yet another client that their property had "great capabilities" for improvement – hence his nickname.

The fifth of six children of a Northumberland yeoman farmer, Lancelot Brown was the classic poor boy who made good. He started out as an apprentice gardener, aged 16, on the local Kirkharle Estate, and it's at Kirkharle

Courtyard that you might begin to explore his life. Among displays highlighting his achievements, there's a copy of Brown's plan – only rediscovered in 1980 – for the redevelopment of Kirkharle's parkland. Never implemented in his lifetime, it has now been used to install a lake and shape the landscape as he imagined it.

By 1741, Brown had moved south to Viscount Cobham's Stowe in Buckinghamshire where he worked and became friends with William Kent, already an enthusiast for the emerging landscape style. Brown embraced the new fashion, learned about architecture and its place in this brave new bucolic world, and with Cobham (intent on impressing his high society friends) created the magnificently 'natural' wood-enclosed Grecian Valley.

Top to bottom:
Longleat House is set
within 900 acres
of Capability Brown
landscaped
parkland; the lake
at Burghley,
in Lincolnshire



HOTOS: @ VISITENGLAND/LONGLEAT

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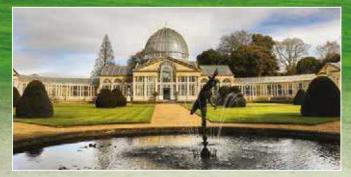
SPECIAL PROPERTY SOO ENTRY SOO LOT LOTE CAPABILITY SO

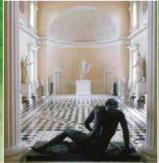


HOUSE & GARDENS



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Just a short journey away from Heathrow is Syon Park, the London home of the Duke of Northumberland. The magnificent House and Gardens are set in 200 acres of parkland and Capability Brown designed gardens, which includes the Great Conservatory, lakes, restaurants, an indoor adventure playground and gift shop.

Whether it is as a heritage site, film location or as an exclusive hospitality venue, Syon Park continues to welcome, inform and fascinate its visitors.

Opening Times

House: Open mid March to the end of October – Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday and Bank Holidays 11.00am – 5.00pm (last entry at 4.00pm)

Gardens: Open mid March to the end of October – Daily 10.30am – 5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm)

Syon Park General Information: Estate Office Tel: 020 8560 0882

Come and explore...

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* see Ts and Cs on our website





The view from the terrace of Bowood House in Wiltshire

At Stowe, Brown also married Bridget Wayet, a happy union that produced nine children. In 1751, the couple moved to London and Brown boldly set himself up as an independent 'place maker'. For the next three decades he criss-crossed England juggling jobs, bringing himself on occasion, as a lifelong asthmatic, to exhausted collapse.

For insights into his early endeavours, visit Croome in Worcestershire where he fashioned both house and parkland into a harmonious fantasy of rural England. At 700-acre Petworth in West Sussex his vague instruction for one area to include "shrubs and plants that will grow" betrayed little interest in flowers – they were largely banished from his landscapes – but the lake certainly impressed the artist JMW Turner, who both painted and fished here while staying with his patron and friend George Wyndham, the 3rd Earl of Egremont.

It was all about the big picture with Brown, and the placing of trees to frame teasing tableaux or provide a palette of changing seasonal colour was key. His new landscape at Wimpole Estate with its eye-catcher sham ruined castle was enclosed by a three-mile woodland belt, and his tree-planting ambitions ring clear in the advice dispensed to the owner of Burton Constable in East Yorkshire: "Small clumps are nothing, pimples on the face of nature, make your clumps large and massy."

Water was the other key element on the Brownian canvas: sinuous and snaking. From the 1750s he spent "25 years of pleasure" sweeping away formal gardens and stiff avenues at another Elizabethan house, Burghley in Lincolnshire, notably creating the vast Serpentine Lake.

At Bowood in Wiltshire, in addition to typical dam works, a hamlet of houses was "taken down for the land to be overflowed with the pond" (in truth a nearly mile-long winding lake), while the house-and-park scene around the lake at Blenheim Palace is rightly revered.

Of course, at Blenheim Brown had much to work with – 2,000 acres of park stocked with a variety of trees, a lake created by the 1st Duchess on the Woodstock side of Grand Bridge, a canal system, formal avenues of trees, and formal gardens close to the palace – largely the work of the famous gardener Henry Wise.

Brown decided that the canals had to go: they were sunk beneath the Great Lake on the west side of the bridge, which also flooded the lower part of the bridge, and a dam was created. However, his work here didn't just concern water features. Karen Wiseman, head of education at Blenheim Palace, says, "Water alone, in his opinion, did not create the perfect view. He planted trees at particular points around the park and lake to hide and reveal beautiful views of the palace, the lake or Woodstock over the park wall. He imagined the Duke travelling around on horseback or in a carriage, so it was from this height that the views were designed to be at their best."

Ever since Brown's work at Blenheim was complete people have travelled for miles to see the deliberate beauty of the park. One of the early admirers was King George III, who, on passing through the Woodstock Gate in 1786, is said to have exclaimed, "We have nothing to equal this."

Not everyone fell in love with Brown's cavalier greening of England's gardens and parks; many were appalled by his obliteration of parterres (such as that at Blenheim) and stately avenues. It was challenging to fully appreciate his signature cedar of Lebanons, new oaks, beeches and landscapes that might take several generations to mature.

Brown had also invented a tree-moving machine and agreed to "transport all the young elms in the garden..."

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Capability at Stapleford Park

Capability Brown was commissioned around 1770 to convert the original 17th century deer park that surround Stapleford Park into an idyllic landscape of today. To mark his tercentenary in 2016, you can enjoy the genius of Capability Brown's vision, not only from the gardens but also be enthralled by the panorama of endless parkland that surround the house from your bedroom windows.

With architectural styles from Tudor to Victorian, Stapleford Park is where tradition meets the best of the 21st century. Get up close and personal with Bernard the owl, or aim for a perfect game of golf on our championship golf course. For those in search of pure bliss, head for the Grade II Victorian stable block, now a luxury Spa.

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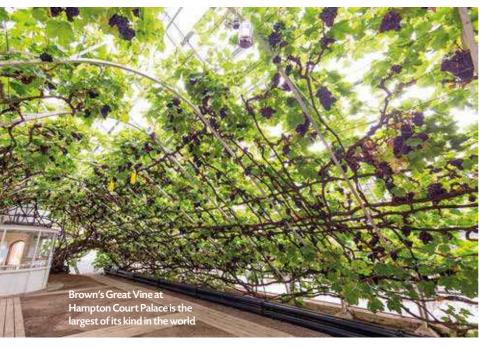
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English Gardens



He left behind a parkland paradise that endures to this day, his influence so far-reaching that he has been called the 'Shakespeare of Gardening'

His hard-earned wealth and reputation were nevertheless crowned in 1764 when King George III appointed him as head gardener of Hampton Court, though it was more of a maintenance project than a landscaping one. There is a blue plaque to Capability on Wilderness House, the palace estate where he lived.

Terry Gough, head of gardens and estates at Historic Royal Palaces, and one of Brown's successors at Hampton Court Palace, says, "Capability Brown was arguably the greatest gardener that this country has ever produced, creating a unique style that has influenced and revolutionised landscape gardening right across Europe.

"As chief gardener at Hampton Court Palace, Brown's legacy lives on in the Great Vine, planted under Brown's instruction in 1768 and now the largest in the world. The East Front's oversized yew trees – which frame the view towards the Long Water – are also survivors of Brown's vision, their shape a result of Brown's decision to stop trimming the formal garden's topiary in order to return the landscape to a more naturalistic aspect.

"Although today considered a significant milestone in the story of the palace's gardens, his revolutionary approach certainly didn't endear him with the Board of Works, however, who in 1770 reprimanded Brown over their apparent disorder and neglect at his hands."

Brown would collapse from an apoplexy in 1783, prompting some to wonder how his indefatigable spirit might 'improve' heaven. Around the great estates of England, at least, he left behind a parkland paradise that endures to this day, his influence so far-reaching that he has been called the 'Shakespeare of Gardening'.

CAPABILITY BROWN 300

Here are some of the best ways to mark the tercentenary of Capability Brown in 2016:

The Temple of Diana (far right) at Weston Park, Shropshire, sleeps six people, with stays starting from £1,000 for three nights. Bookings at www.ruralretreats.co.uk

Capability Brown events at Weston Park range from monthly exhibitions to talks and guided walks around the grounds.

www.weston-park.com

Visit Capability Brown & the Landscape Created for Blenheim Palace, an exhibition at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, from 13 February to 2 May 2016. www.blenheimpalace.com

Enjoy special Capability Brown guided garden tours and a *Terrestrial Delights* exhibition (from 25 March 2016 to the end of October) at Bowood House and Garden, Wiltshire. www.bowood.org/bowood-gardens



You can visit the Open Garden weekend at the church at Fenstanton, the final resting place of Capability Brown, from 18–19 June 2016, or attend the Capability memorial service in Fenstanton Church on 28 August 2016.

www.fenstanton-village.co.uk

For more photos of Brown's landscapes go to www.britain-magazine.com/EnglishGardens



HOTOS: @ HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES/RICHARD LEA-HAIR/VISITENGLAND/FENSTANTON









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BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

Here are some of our favourite horticultural havens to visit in 2016, the Year of the English Garden

rom Tudor privy gardens to the botanical collections of the Victorians, English gardens are another great way to learn about our nation's rich history.

At Sissinghurst Castle Garden in Kent you can see the fruits of the labour of poet and gardener Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson who poured their love of horticulture into the grounds around their romantic home.

Vita and Harold purchased the derelict Sissinghurst in 1930, and set to work creating their vision of a garden as a series of rooms, with Harold focusing on interesting ways of connecting the 'rooms' and Vita busying herself with selecting the flowers that adorned them, including those within the famous rose garden.

Another celebrated rose garden resides at Borde Hill Garden, in West Sussex. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2016, Jay Robin's Rose Garden displays David Austin English roses in the grounds of a beautiful Elizabethan house.

For a true sense of the opulence and splendour of the Elizabethan era, take a visit to Kenilworth Castle. For 400 years its garden, built for Queen Elizabeth I, who visited its owner, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, for 19 days in 1575, lay hidden until English Heritage decided to restore it.

The restoration owes much to an eye-witness account of the garden in the Langham Letter, a piece of 16th-century writing attributed to Robert Langham, a member of Dudley's household, but which some believe was actually written by author and scholar William Patten.

The recreated garden includes a bejewelled aviary, an 18-foot-high marble fountain and perfumed walkways, all of which would have been designed to prove to the queen that Dudley had the wealth and connections to be deemed a suitor.

Another major restoration project has taken place at the medieval Aberglasney House and Gardens in the Tywi Valley in Carmarthenshire, Wales, which has a unique Elizabethan cloister garden at its

heart, framed by a parapet walkway, a rare survivor of this style of garden architecture.

Its 10 acres of ancient gardens include an 18th-century yew tunnel, while the Ninfarium is an indoor garden set amid some of the house's ruinous rooms.

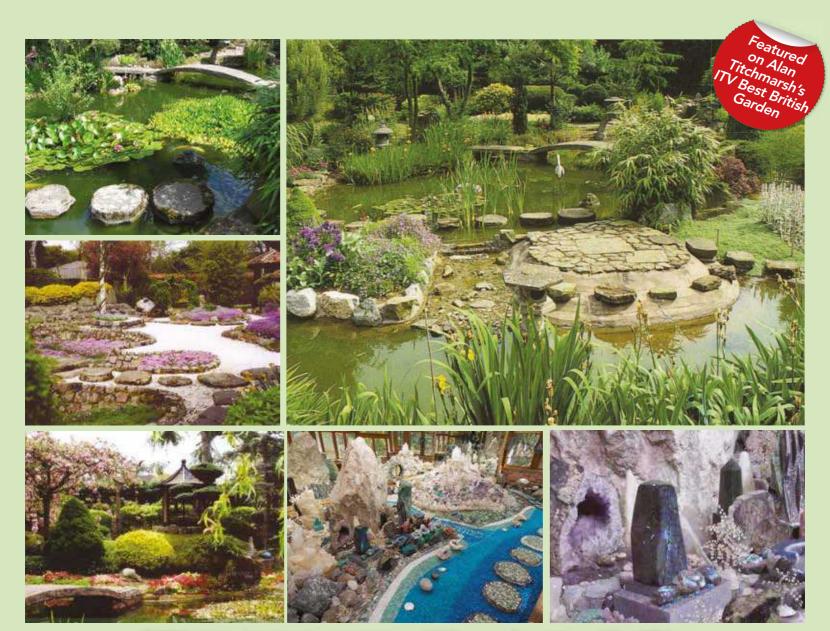
And so to Surrey, to perhaps the most famous gardens in the world, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, which are home to the largest collection of plants on the planet.

Situated on the outskirts of London, Kew Gardens, as they are better known, were officially founded in 1840, though an earlier Georgian garden was created here when Kew was still a royal residence.

The Victorian reincarnation included the introduction of the famous glasshouses, the tropical Palm House and the foundation of the Herbarium Collection, as the gardens became a place for scientific research as well as a major tourist attraction. B

to www.britain-magazine.com/englishgardens

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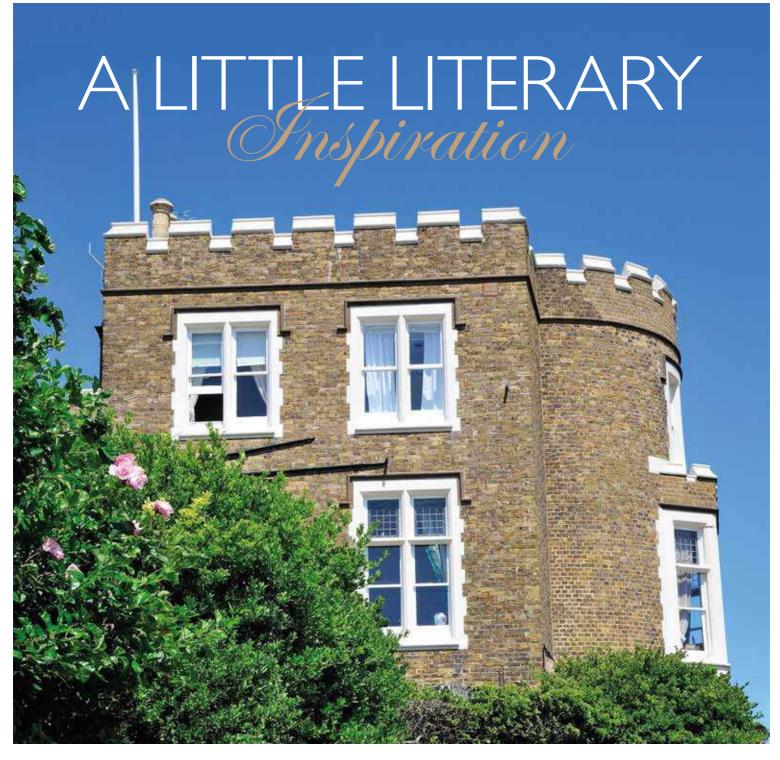
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WORDS **HEIDI FULLER-LOVE**



Places to Stay



Front page: Charles Dickens' former home Bleak House in Broadstairs, Kent. From left to right: Charles Dickens; Dylan Thomas; George Orwell; Sherlock Holmes; Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Clockwise from top left: 1850 etching Mr Micawber delivers some valedictory remarks by Phiz (Hablot K Browne) in Charles Dickens' David Copperfield; Holmes on the scent in The Adventure of the Second Stain; Vanessa Bell's portrait of her sister Virginia Woolf, c1912, in Monk's House, Sussex; the Fitzroy Tavern, a literary haven in interwar London; the Langham, London; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's His Last Bow was first published in 1917

Conan Doyle Uniform Edition
HIS LAST BOW

rom William Shakespeare to JK Rowling,
Britain's profuse literary heritage is celebrated in
festivals such as the Eisteddfod in Wales or the
Mod in Scotland, and congratulated with
prestigious literary awards – the Man Booker Prize and
the Orange Prize For Fiction, for instance. But far from
the madding crowds of celebrity, many of Britain's literary
giants had havens or hideaways in hotels, or private houses
that now open their doors for overnight stays.

"Books are the mirrors of the soul," said Virginia Woolf in her opus *Between The Acts*. So what better way to soak up Britain's legendary literary essence than to stay in some of these venues, which are impregnated with the spirits of the writers who have lived and written in them? Follow us on a tour of some of the best.

British literature's most celebrated Victorian novelist, Charles Dickens, spent many happy summer holidays in the town of Broadstairs, Kent, staying here for the first time while finishing his first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, at the tender age of 25. Renting a room in the town, he regularly visited his neighbour, Miss Mary Pearson Strong, who was to become the inspiration for the character of Miss Betsey Trotwood, the protagonist's generous great-aunt in the novel *David Copperfield*.

Later, Dickens moved to Fort House in Broadstairs, a Grade II listed building perched high on a cliff overlooking Viking Bay in the seaside resort of the Isle of Thanet, and it was here that he wrote several of his most famous novels. Renamed Bleak House, Fort House is now a hotel where you can stay in Charles Dickens' original bedroom and even sleep in the bed where one of his greatest fans, Queen Victoria, subsequently snoozed.

Renowned for its cultural heritage, the British capital is less than a two-hour drive from Broadstairs. You can pop over to the British Library to see original manuscripts, ranging from *The Canterbury Tales* to *Jane Eyre* and *Mrs Dalloway*, or grab lunch at the Fitzroy Tavern, known as a meeting place for writers, artists and bohemians between the wars. If you're looking for London's best bookish





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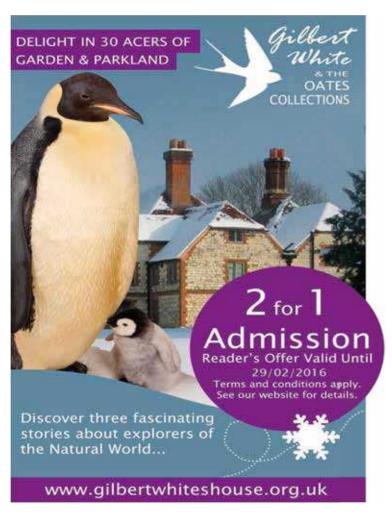


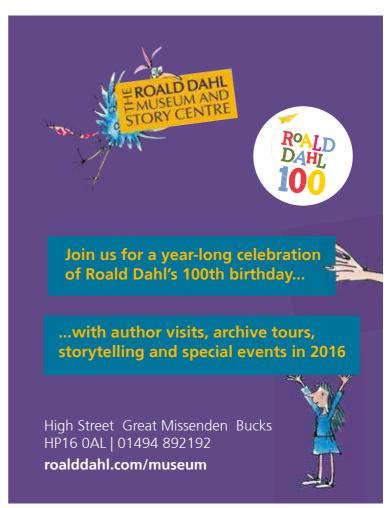




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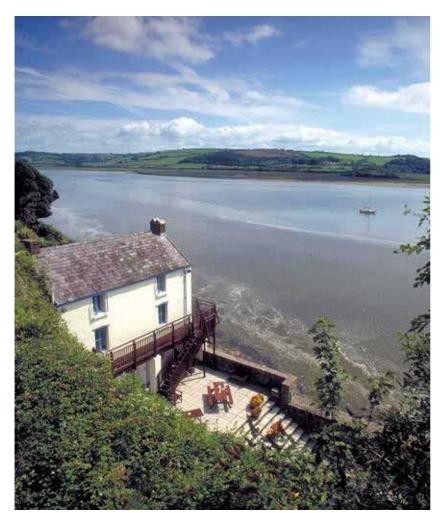
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"Drop in at Brown's, buy a Felinfoel and ask where we live: they know," Dylan Thomas famously told visiting friends



hideaway to stay for the night, head for the Langham, London, near Oxford Circus. Celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2015, this hotel - which was London's first to have hot and cold running water in all bedrooms and hydraulic lifts – was a favourite with writers.

One regular guest, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, had a lucky break here during a literary dinner in 1889, when the editor of a prominent literary magazine commissioned him to write *The Sign of Four*, his second story featuring his soon-to-be-famous character, Sherlock Holmes. At the same dinner, the editor also commissioned Oscar Wilde to write his celebrated work, The Picture of Dorian Gray. If you want to soak up the full atmosphere of this book-loving hotel, then stay in the Arthur Conan Doyle suite. At the top of a cupola-topped tower, it comes with a Holmes-style garret studio and a littering of Sherlock memorabilia, but you'll need to bring your own Watson.

As far removed from London - both literally and figuratively - as you can imagine, Barnhill on the remote and rocky island of Jura in the Scottish Hebrides was the writing haven of Eric Arthur Blair, aka George Orwell, for the last four years of his life. A remote farmhouse with stunning views of the Mull of Kintyre, the island famously mentioned in Paul McCartney's eponymous 1970s song, this is where Orwell wrote his dystopian novel Nineteen Eighty-Four.

island has remained much the same to this day. You will

Left to right: The **Dylan Thomas** Boathouse on the River Taf in Carmarthenshire, Wales; Dylan Thomas in the garden at the Boathouse in 1953

need to take a rocky ferry ride, and then walk the length of a dirt track to stay in Barnhill, the farmhouse where Orwell created the terrifying world of Big Brother in his groundbreaking science fiction novel.

Another writer who favoured secluded hideaways was the poet, writer and broadcaster Dylan Thomas, who spent the last years of his tragically short life, along with is wife, Caitlin, and their children, watching oystercatchers, egrets and the seashell-seekers known as cocklers, in the Welsh town of Laugharne, or "the strangest town in Wales", as Thomas dubbed it.

The poet wrote classic poems such as Over Sir John's Hill and his seminal work Under Milk Wood in a small shed, called the Boathouse, overlooking the Taf estuary. Up early, he would write in the morning, then wander down to town in the afternoon to drink in Brown's Hotel, whose phone number he would sometimes give out as his own. "Drop in at Brown's, buy a Felinfoel and ask where we live: they know," he famously told visiting friends.

No longer just a watering hole, Brown's now has several rooms where Dylan fans, including actor Peter O'Toole and the Rolling Stones' Mick Jagger, have stayed. Check in for a few nights and soak up the atmosphere of this legendary hotel, where Dylan Thomas would play cards or gamble on horses, and where his wake was later held after his death in New York in 1953.

Lured by his love of Keats, who wrote many of his works here, Alfred, Lord Tennyson moved to the Isle of

Apart from one small hotel and a whisky distillery, the

Places to Stay



Wight in the 1850s. "It looked rather wretched with wet leaves trampled into the lawn," he said of Farringford, the rambling neo-Gothic mansion where he was soon to live. Buying the property with profits from the sales of his poem *Maud*, in 1856, the Poet Laureate of Great Britain and Ireland wrote many of his greatest works here, but he often grumbled about his fans, who would break into his garden or climb trees in order to catch a glimpse of him at work.

Stay in one of the pretty cottages built on the Farringford estate and you can relive scenes from his finest poems as you visit Farringford House, then follow the Tennyson trail

through dense woodland and along coastal paths with spectacular views that inspired the poet to write "Words, like nature, half reveal and half conceal the soul within."

For a final sip from the golden cup of British literary heritage, make a beeline for Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire, home of the wild Romantic poet Lord Byron, who inherited Newstead Abbey in 1798. Long before joining the Greek War of Independence where he tragically contracted a fever and died at the age 36 in Missolonghi, Greece, Byron spent many months at Newstead Abbey, wandering in the beautiful grounds and

digging up the floors seeking the gold hidden here by the monks, according to local legend.

You can stay in the recently renovated 19th-century Gardener's Cottage in the heart of the grounds of Byron's ancestral home, just a few minutes' walk from the house. Visit the museum to discover a fascinating collection of Byron's belongings, including the desk at which he wrote many of his most famous works and, outside, a monument to his dog who died of rabies, then wander in the vast grounds of the estate.

Surrounded by swan-filled lakes and parks bright with peacocks, this is the perfect place to muse on the tempestuous life of one of Britain's most highly regarded Romantic poets.

Top to bottom:

Newstead Abbey

poet Lord Byron,

who inherited the

house in 1798; the

lake at Newstead

Abbey today

in 1836; the Romantic

OS: © CHRONICLE/ALAMY/PICTORIAL PRESS LTD/DAVE POI



Historic Royal Palaces

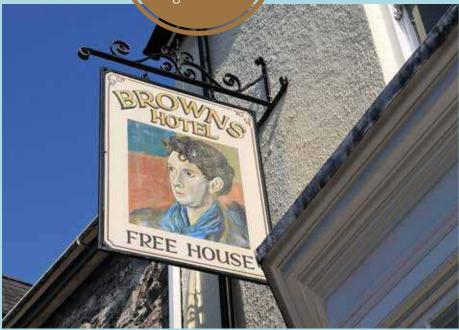
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THE LANGHAM, LONDON

This elegant hotel, in the heart of London's West End, has attracted literary greats, from Sherlock Holmes creator, Arthur Conan Doyle, to Oscar Wilde. www.langhamhotels.com/en/the-langham/london

BARNHILL, THE ISLE OF JURA, SCOTLAND

Hire the house where George Orwell lived for the last four years of his life and wrote his seminal novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, which sleeps eight. www.escapetojura.com/Barnhill.html

BROWN'S HOTEL, LAUGHARNE, WALES

Dylan Thomas's favourite pub has 15 en-suite rooms and offers a special *Liquor, Literature & Laugharne* deal, including a Penderyn Distillery masterclass. www.browns-hotel.co.uk

FARRINGFORD ESTATE, THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Book a short stay in one of the 10 cottages (below), set within the 100-acre estate once owned by Tennyson. www.farringford.co.uk

GARDENER'S COTTAGE, NEWSTEAD ABBEY

This newly restored 19th-century cottage in the grounds of Lord Byron's ancestral home is available to hire from January 2016 and sleeps up to six people. www.newsteadabbey.org.uk/hire-us/gardeners-cottage



CELEBRATING WRITERS IN 2016

BICENTENARY OF CHARLOTTE BRONTË

With 2016 marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of the author of *Jane Eyre*, the Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum, in the writer's hometown of Haworth, West Yorkshire, will be hosting a unique exhibition *I Shall Go Off Like a Bombshell: Charlotte Great and Small*, curated by novelist Tracey Chevalier, who wrote *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. www.bronte.org.uk

100 YEARS OF ROALD DAHL

The birth of one of the nation's favourite children's authors will be marked with events across Britain, but particularly in Cardiff, the city of his childhood. In City of the Unexpected, a huge performance will take place across Cardiff, produced by National Theatre Wales and Wales Millennium Centre. www.roalddahl.com/blog/2015/july/roald-dahl-100-in-wales

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEATRIX POTTER

Born in London, but inspired in much of her work by the Lake District, children's writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter is best remembered for *The Tales of Peter Rabbit*. In this, the 150th anniversary year since her birth, there will be lots of events taking place, including a touring exhibition of her artwork, which will visit Wordsworth House and Garden in Cumbria. www.visitcumbria.com/beatrix-potter

JANE AUSTEN'S BATH

Visit the Regency city that influenced a lot of the writing by everyone's favourite Georgian novelist. The 2016 Jane Austen Festival, which will see the streets of Bath come alive with costumed characters, will take place from 9-18 September 2016. www.janeaustenfestivalbath.co.uk

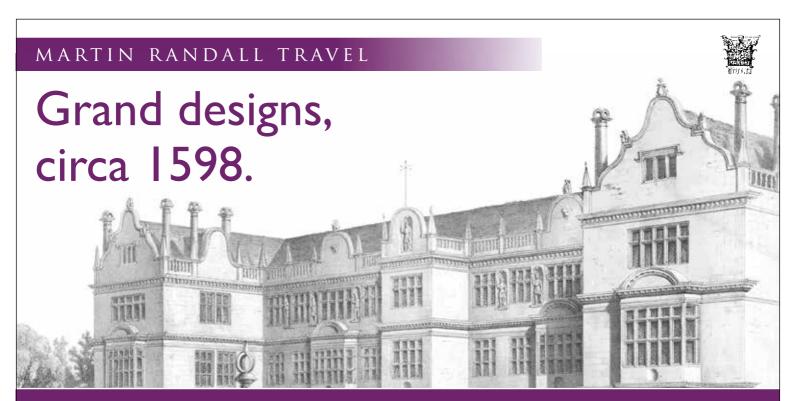
SHAKESPEARE 400

In 2016, the 400th anniversary of the death of arguably our best playwright (certainly our most famous) will be celebrated across the country but particularly in William Shakespeare's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Come and see his plays performed at the Royal Shakespeare Company (which offers a new immersive theatrical experience), visit Shakespeare's Schoolroom and Guildhall, which will be open to the public for the first time, and see a reimagining of his final home, New Place, by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Of course the best time to visit is during the Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations weekend on 23-24 April 2016 (the playwright is said to have died on his birthday) when the streets will come alive with pageantry, pomp and performance. www.shakespeares-england.co.uk/shakespeare-2016

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Image: Montacute House, Somerset, lithograph 1842.

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BRITAIN 47



A law unto ourselves

How hot are you on British law? It's easier than you might think to unwittingly commit a criminal offence of the strangest order...

WORDS CHRIS FAUTLEY

gnorance of the law excuses no man: not that all men know the law, but because 'tis an excuse every man will plead." These words have been a basic tenet of British law since John Selden, English jurist and scholar, wrote them in the 17th century.

Selden, unsurprisingly, was a lawyer. Even so, it would be hard not to sympathise with a plea of ignorance of some of our, shall we say, more obscure laws – the majority of which were passed many years ago and have never been repealed.

Hence, carry a plank along a pavement and within the terms of Section 54.8 of the Metropolitan Police Act 1839, you could still end up with a criminal record. Admittedly, most of us have little requirement to carry planks along pavements, but window cleaners beware: the same section also applies to ladders.

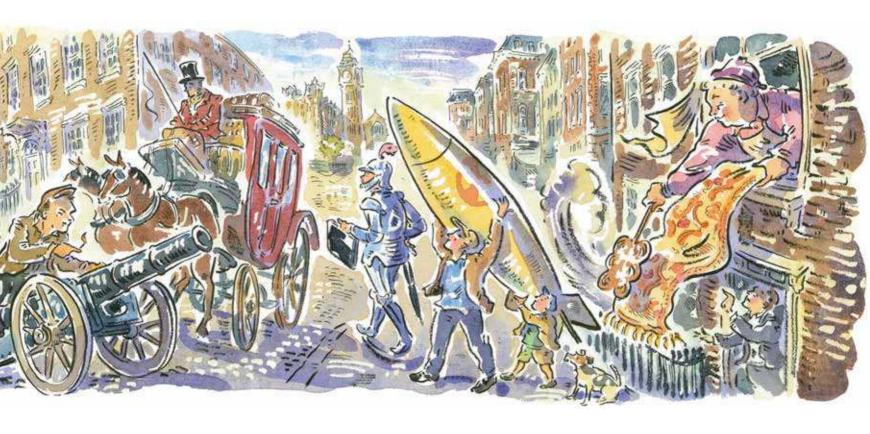
The act probably reflected the burning issues of the time and, while much has been repealed, some parts remain embedded in law to this day – when we might be more likely to take the view that "common sense applies". For example, under Section 55, "No person... shall discharge any cannon... within 300 yards of any dwelling house." That's a relief.

Meanwhile, under Section 60.3, shake or beat any carpet, rug or mat on the thoroughfare, and you could be in big trouble. Doormats are allowed, though. But only before 8am. And here's a killjoy's charter: fly a kite in the street or make a slide on ice or snow, and the long arm of the law could be tapping your shoulder. Arguably, there is good reason for retaining some of the act, but other old laws seem to have been so infrequently used that they have simply been swallowed by the jaws of time.

In other words, we forgot about them – which is presumably why it is still illegal to wear a suit of armour in the Houses of Parliament (because under an act of 1313, the king said so). Although some of its residents might occasionally wish they could. Similarly, a byelaw in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham relating to dickey straps – which were attached to a carriage driver's seat – lingered long after the streets of the borough were carriage-free. Likewise in the same borough, a 1905 byelaw concerning the transportation of dead horses probably doesn't see much use these days.

Gloucester City Council, meanwhile, is weighed down by a plethora of byelaws it is anxious to annul – including one where fish frying and "other offensive trades" are regulated. Don't forget the provenance of the chips, either. Under the Polish Potatoes (Notification) (England) Order 2004 it is an offence to import Polish potatoes into England (for reasons of plant disease).

Returning to matters piscatorial, beware the Section 32 (1) of the Salmon Act 1986 which states, among more serious matters, that it is illegal to handle salmon in circumstances giving cause for



suspicion. Or, if you prefer, abstain from doing anything fishy with a salmon. And, if when catching your salmon, you should happen to find yourself within one kilometre of 41 degrees, 43 minutes, 84 seconds north, and 49 degrees, 57 minutes, 23 seconds west (basically the middle of the Atlantic), then best gen up on the Protection of Wrecks (*RMS Titanic*) Order 2003. This prohibits you from entering the *Titanic*'s hull. Again, although enacted for good reason, it's unlikely to bother too many people.

Rail travellers have rather more to concern them. Buried within the Transport Act 2000 are byelaws concerning unacceptable behaviour, dangerous substances and... queuing. Queuing? It's what we Brits do naturally. Even so, if an "authorised person" or notice instructs us to queue, then queue we must. Or else.

It isn't just old laws that are, well, weird. In that respect, the Nuclear Explosions (Prohibition and Inspections) Act 1998 is a trailblazer: "Any person who knowingly causes a nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction... to imprisonment for life." To be frank, they'd probably have more pressing concerns.

Should you fall foul of the law (strange or otherwise), you may end up with a fine. Sadly, no matter how gratifying it might be, you cannot pay it with a sackful of pennies. The Coinage Act 1971 decrees that bronze coinage is only legal tender for amounts up to 20p. There are also restrictions for "silver" coinage, although you may pay any amount with £1 coins. Reassuringly, it therefore follows that (as stated in the act) you may pay any amount in gold coins at their face value. Strangely, few people do.

Some laws just seem to fall by the wayside, and are never used. Do you know that Easter Day falls on the same day every year? It's the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April – at least it would be if anybody had bothered to take notice of the Easter Act 1928, which prescribed that Easter Day should fall thus "in the calendar year next but one after the commencement of this act and in all subsequent years."

It's little wonder that with so many odd laws extant, a few urban myths have crept through. Thus, to be clear: it is not illegal to stick a stamp upside down on an envelope (you could always argue the envelope was upside down, not the stamp); nor is it legal to shoot a Welshman inside Chester city walls after midnight (it isn't legal to shoot a Welshman anywhere). Surprisingly, though, it is not illegal to destroy a banknote – but it is to write on it, under Section 12 of the Currency and Banknotes Act 1928, which suggests that, judging by some of the notes dispensed from cash machines, rather a lot of bank clerks have cause for concern. And it won't help for them to plead ignorance. Because Mr Selden says it's no excuse.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Statute of Marlborough is England's oldest surviving statute. Enacted in 1267, four sections are still in use – although two look certain to be axed. The other two, still considered valid, preclude tenants from selling their land; and prohibit the taking of revenge for failing to pay a debt.

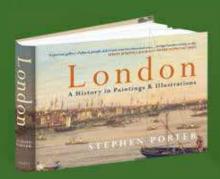
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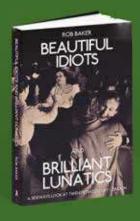
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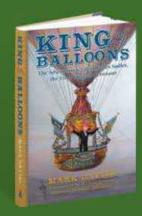
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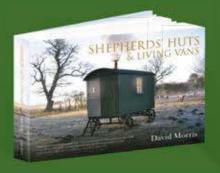
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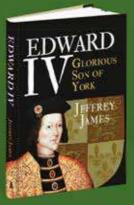
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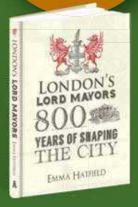
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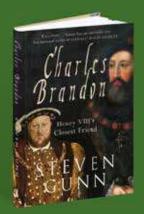
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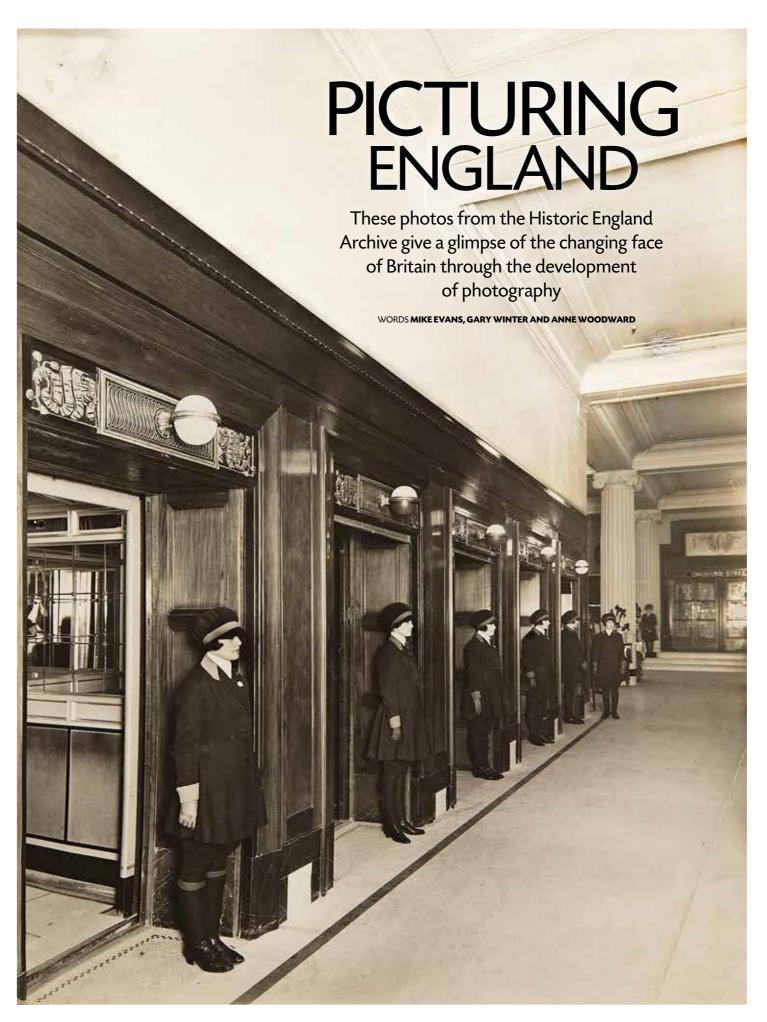
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PHOTOS: © SYDNEY W NEWBERY/ALFRED NEWTON & SON/JB LEVENTHORPE/HISTORIC ENGLAND ARCHIVE

Selfridge & Co department store, London In the opening image overleaf, lift attendants at Selfridge's department store on London's Oxford Street pose with military precision in 1928. The photograph by Sydney W Newbery, who specialised in architectural photography, was taken around the time that the store's western extension was completed.

'A Picnic', Kennack Sands, St Keverne, Cornwall, c1910

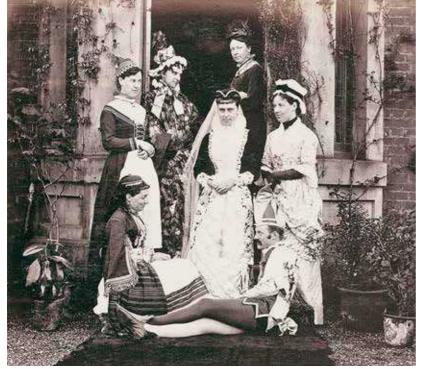
This photo from Alfred Newton & Son records relaxed picnickers. Kennack Sands on Cornwall's Lizard peninsula is quite a remote location and the photographer would have been unlikely to stumble on, and record, this particular scene. More probably, members of the group asked him to take this photograph and ordered sufficient copies to make it commercially viable.



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Social History





St Paul's Cathedral from Southwark Bridge, London

This view of St Paul's Cathedral looming beyond the Thames-side wharves (above) is an albumen print from a wet collodion negative, virtually identical to a calotype photograph by Alfred Rosling taken in 1854. Although we can't say for certain that he took the picture, it's possible Rosling tried to recapture the scene later in the decade using the more up to date process.

Group portrait, possibly Manor House, Little Missenden, Buckinghamshire, April 1878

This photo (left) by JB Leventhorpe shows a man and six women dressed up for amateur dramatics, perhaps as part of the after-dinner entertainment for the rest of the family.

Wood's Restaurant, Northumberland, 1902

Newton & Son took photographs all over England at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, concentrating especially on popular tourist destinations, picturesque landscapes and historic architecture. This photo (right) of staff and customers in Wood's Restaurant, Berwick-upon-Tweed, in 1902 indicates that the firm also took photos to sell as souvenirs.

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Singin' In The Rain, Kilworth House Theatre 2015

Opening the 10th Anniversary Season in 2016 at Kilworth House Theatre is one of the most memorable musicals and greatest love stories of all time **'West Side Story'**. Running from Ist June to 17th July, Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet is transported to 1950's New York City, as two young idealistic lovers find themselves caught between warring street gangs, the "American" Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks. Arguably this iconic multiple Award Winning musical has the most famous, legendary musical hits of all time which include 'Somewhere', 'Maria', 'America', 'I Feel Pretty' and 'Tonight'.

The second production is the Winner of no less than 6 Tony Awards including Best Musical, 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' which runs from 16th August to 11th September. Based on the 1967 film of the same name this bright, funny, and charming musical comedy includes such memorable numbers as 'How the Other Half Lives', 'Not for the Life of Me', 'Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life' and of course the title song 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'.



Take time out and enjoy the truly luxurious facilities at Kilworth House Hotel with a 'Theatre Break' inclusive of pre-theatre dinner served in the Hotel, tickets for the show, overnight accommodation and breakfast. Just four miles east of Junction 20 of the MI and easily accessible from the M69, M6 and A14, this is an ideal gift for someone special or quite simply a perfect opportunity for a wonderful treat and an unforgettable experience! * Double occupancy in a Garden Room.

Theatre Breaks can be booked through the Hotel Sales & Marketing Office on **01858 881881** (9.00am - 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, full payment is required upon booking).

There's a special aura and magic about open-air theatre on a beautiful English summer's evening, so what better way to experience that magic than amidst the magnificent surroundings of the Kilworth estate, enjoying a professional production of a standard rarely seen outside the West End of London.



Kilworth House Theatre



2016 SEASON





ANTIQUES HUNTING IN LEWES

Hunt out one-of-a-kind period pieces and browse shelves in antiquarian bookshops in the pretty Sussex town of Lewes

WORDS HENRY BARLOW

William Morris walked atop the Sussex Downs in the 19th century, he sighed: "You can see Lewes lying like a box of toys under a great amphitheatre of chalk hills... on the whole it is set down better than any town I have seen in England." Were he to visit today, he would be pleased to see that little has changed in the East Sussex county town. Dating back to Roman and Saxon times, it has considerable historical interest, thanks to its immaculately maintained streets of Georgian and early Victorian housing, a Norman castle and even the house in which King Henry VIII intended his wife Anne of Cleves to live. Unlike many other London émigrés, she never actually inhabited Lewes.

hen the writer

and craftsman

However, the town is still dominated by myriad antique emporia and second-hand bookshops, ranging from upmarket establishments that wouldn't disgrace a Chelsea thoroughfare to cheerily junky places that look as if they have remained unchanged over the past half-century. A fine example of the former is the premier antiques shop, No 1 Lewes, which stands between the River Ouse and the famous Harveys Brewery. Specialising in quirky 19th-century furniture and homeware, much of which has been imported from Europe, its high prices are more than matched by a carefully curated stock and exquisite presentation that never fails to throw up something of interest.

The deep-pocketed (and you'll need them) will be welcomed with great warmth;

meanwhile, the less well-to-do browser may receive a slightly cooler reception.

This is not the case at the more eclectic Pastorale Antiques, a short walk away. The items aren't cheap, but there's a cheerily ramshackle feel to it all that makes an afternoon's browsing here seem highly enjoyable, not least because there's an excellent café, the Buttercup, next door, where you can enjoy a coffee and relax.

If you want to be assured of quality antiques then make sure you visit one of the two shops registered with the British Antique Dealers' Association (BADA), a trade association that only accepts membership from dealers who have proven their integrity and high quality of stock to ensure you can buy with confidence.

WF Bruce, a dealer of fine clocks, is one, located on North Street, and Anthony Woodburn Ltd, a husband-and-wife team that specialises in clocks from the reign of King Charles II to that of Queen Victoria, is the other.

However, for true eccentricity, head to the famous Lewes Flea Market, where, in a converted chapel, you will find dozens of small stalls selling a mixture of good-natured tat and genuinely beautiful antiques and objets d'art, most of which will be priced more kindly than you will find in the antiques shops proper.

On occasion, motoring enthusiasts will find vintage cars for sale in its driveway, while a less conventional purchase would be to snap up one of the suits of armour that gaze out from its upstairs window – a sight that never fails to alarm after dark.

Book lovers are also well catered for: a walk up the High Street will take you to two high-class

establishments, the Bow Windows Bookshop and A&Y Cumming. The former would fit snugly into Cecil Court, London's famous second-hand bookshop street, thanks to its well-chosen display of beautiful first editions and illustrated books – many extremely rare indeed, and priced accordingly. Nonetheless, it's a dull day that the window display doesn't yield something truly striking.

Much the same can be said of the more old-fashioned Mr Cumming's establishment, which combines a reasonably priced general stock, strong on local interest and historical biography, with some spectacular and scarce

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Front page: No1 Lewes.
Top: The 15th Century
Bookshop, which is
rumoured to be haunted.
Above: Closet & Botts on
the town's pretty
High Street.
Right: Antiquarian
booksellers
A&Y Cumming



titles that are showcased in the window before vanishing to the recesses of the shop. Bargains have, however, been known.

At the top of the High Street, the ramshackle but historically interesting 15th Century Bookshop is rumoured to be haunted by several ghosts. It adjoins the steep Keere Street, down which the future King George IV was said to have driven a coach and horses for a bet. Today, it is closed to all traffic, horse-drawn or otherwise.

For those more interested in contemporary artefacts, Lewes has a number of high-end boutiques and design-focused shops. Relative newcomer Freight, situated halfway up the High Street, is run by style-conscious mother and daughter, Helene and Adele, and offers candles, soap, gloriously plump, soft cotton towels – and rugs made from reindeer hide. And don't miss nearby and ever-popular Closet & Botts, which bridges old and new with its cheery selection of knick-knacks that offer vintage styling with modern durability. For the sartorially-minded, there's a selection of 1940s-style tea dresses in contemporary proportions and sizes.

Lewes, then, has it all for the visiting antiques lover, with some of Sussex's most desirable items festooning its shops, but with (largely) friendly locals who are only too happy to chat about the provenance of the beauties for sale in them. Whether you're after a quirky little knick-knack for under £10 or something rather more expensive, you're sure to find it somewhere in town.

Tor more information on East Sussex, visit www.britain-magazine.com/eastsussex

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE

By train: There are two direct trains an hour from London Victoria, which take just over an hour.

By car: The town is relatively short of parking spaces, but what car parks there are tend to be free at quieter times.

WHERE TO STAY

In a town short of high-end hotels, the best option is Pelham House, a 16th-century townhouse that has attracted plaudits for its well-regarded restaurant. www.pelhamhouse.com

WHERE TO EAT

The aptly named Lewesiana is the best of the town's many tea rooms, offering a peerless selection of exotic hot drinks and both sweet and savoury afternoon teas. www.lewesiana.co.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

Find out more at www.lewes.co.uk

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February 5 - 7 **Petersfield Antiques Fair**

> Festival Hall, Heath Rd, Petersfield G31 4EA Picturesque Georgian market town, 1 hour from London Waterloo or A3 by road.

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March 17 - 20 Chelsea Art-Design-Antiques Fair London

> Chelsea Old Town Hall, Kings Road, Chelsea SW3 5EE Established 1950, so very traditional, but now also embracing 20th C Design and unique modern artifacts

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> Chelsea Old Town Hall, Kings Road, Chelsea, SW3 5EE Unique original works of art, mostly contemporary Established 1989 here in fashionable Kings Road

East Sussex July 1 - 3 Firle Place Antiques Fair

> In the 18th C Riding School in the parkland of this lovely Stately Home, 4 miles from Lewes BN8 6LP 1 hour from London Victoria to Lewes. Then taxi.

Cotswolds July 30 - 31 **Burford School Antiques Fair**

> Famous School on the outskirts of one of the prettiest Oxfordshire villages, on the A40, OX18 4PL. A wide variety of Affordable Antiques & Art

September 2 - 4 **Petersfield Antiques Fair**

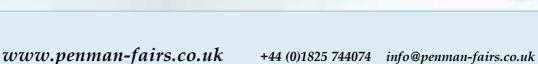
> Festival Hall, Heath Rd, Petersfield G31 4EA Picturesque Georgian market town, traditional fair. 1 hour from London Waterloo or A3 by road.

September 15 - 18 Chelsea Art-Design-Antiques Fair London

> Chelsea Old Town Hall, Kings Road, Chelsea SW3 5EE Established 1950, so very traditional, but now also embracing 20th C Design and unique modern artifacts

October 13 - 16 Cheshire Chester Antiques Show

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Question: Whose official London residence is Buckingham Palace?

- a) The Prime Minister
- b) HM The Queen
- c) The Duke of Cambridge

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For full Terms and Conditions go to www.britain-magazine.com/GreatBritishComp Closing date for entries is 1 August 2016. Winner will be notified by 10 August 2016. Prize to be redeemed and used between 1 October 2016 and 31 August 2017.



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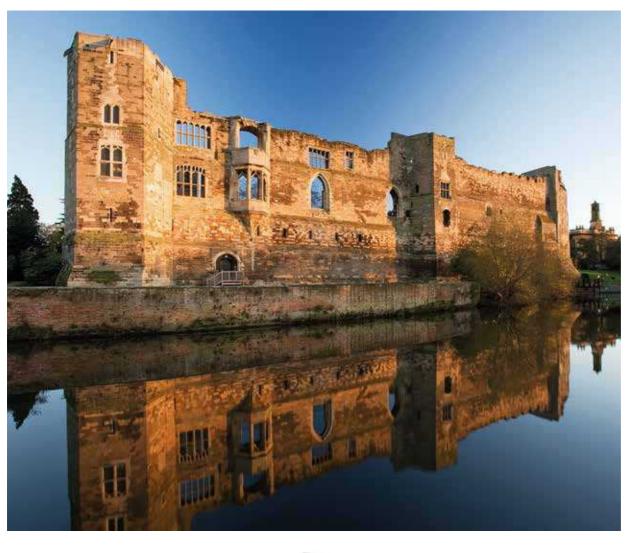
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On which side would you have fought in the English Civil War? With the recent opening of Britain's first museum dedicated to this tumultuous period, we explore both sides of the argument words sally coffey



PHOTOS: © GL ARCHIVE/ACTIVE MUSEUM/ALAMY/ANN RONAN PICTURE LIBRARY/HERITAGE IMAGES/GETTY





rom 1642 to 1651 England experienced an unprecedented period of civil unrest, the likes of which haven't been seen since, caused in no small part by a king who insisted on ruling without government, much to the disdain of his people.

At the new National Civil War Centre in Newark, Nottinghamshire, you can discover more about the gruesome reality of this period of unrest, which resulted in the deaths of one in 30 people and which saw many castles and cathedrals destroyed across the country.

When King Charles I came to the throne in 1625, succeeding his father, King James I, he was soon embroiled in a series of arguments with Parliament over his insistence of raising taxes without its authorisation. The king also aroused suspicion, particularly among Puritans, over his intentions regarding the Church following his marriage to a Roman Catholic, Henrietta Maria of France. Before long Charles had gained a reputation for being an uncompromising monarch and when in 1629 Parliament once again objected to his collection of 'tonnage and poundage' taxes, he took the

drastic decision to dissolve Parliament, claiming that he was accountable only to God.

Over the next 11 years, a series of attempts by Charles to raise money from taxes and levies and imprison anyone who didn't pay them caused further distrust. As the spendthrift king ran out of money he was forced to recall Parliament twice in 1640 – first in what was known as the Short Parliament (it was dissolved after only three weeks) and then in the Long Parliament – to ask it to assist him by passing some financial bills, primarily to fund the Bishops' Wars in Scotland.

Seeing Charles's power waning,

Parliament sought to undermine him further. The Commons went after one of his allies,

Sir Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with John Pym, leader of the Long Parliament, impeaching him on the grounds of high treason for urging the king to use Irish forces to launch a military coup against Parliament. Although Strafford successfully fought off the charge, it didn't stop a petition demanding his execution. Strafford is said to have remarked, "Put not your trust in princes," when Charles assented. The episode signalled to Charles's dissenters that he was weakening.

Clockwise, from top left: Newark Castle was of immense strategic importance; Charles I held his own Parliament in the Great Hall at Christ Church, Oxford, during the Civil War; siege pieces (currency) reveal that despite the chaos people were still paid; Cromwell dissolves the Long Parliament; English MP John Pym took a leading role in the Parliamentary opposition to King Charles I

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DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 400 documented cases of women dressing as men in order to fight during the English Civil War (although the actual figure is probably much higher), which led King Charles I to issue a proclamation in 1643 banning such behaviour. Some aristocratic women defended their homes while their husbands were away fighting. Lady Mary Bankes famously withstood two Parliamentarian sieges at Corfe Castle.

www.britain-magazine.com



An uprising by Catholics in Ireland in 1641, which resulted in the deaths of many English and Scottish Protestant settlers, exacerbated the sense of unease already bubbling away in the country. Many believed that Charles was involved in a Catholic conspiracy to destroy Protestantism. This became just a part of what was termed the Grand Remonstrance to the king, drafted by John Pym and his supporters. The king flew into a frenzy and attempted to have them arrested for high treason. However, he was too late: arriving to arrest the rebel MPs

Above: The frontispiece of the Eikon Basilike published shortly after King Charles I's execution and thought to have been written by the king himself

in the Houses of Parliament, but realising they had gone, he lamented, "The birds have flown."

One of Charles's most fierce detractors was radical MP and Puritan Oliver Cromwell who formed a group of rebels that demanded that Charles surrender much of his royal power to Parliament. The king was outraged, fled London, ordered his wife to take the Crown Jewels to France and try to sell them to raise funds, and declared war on Parliament in 1642 by raising his standard in Nottingham. Fitting, then, that when it was decided that Britain should have a National Civil War Centre – there has never before been a similar single resource – that Newark, in Nottinghamshire, was chosen as the location.

During the Civil War the country effectively divided into two, with a largely Royalist north and west (with supporters known as the Cavaliers) up against a Parliamentarian south and east (known as the Roundheads). Initially the king was supported by foot soldiers from Wales and Cornwall but when the Parliamentarians formed an alliance with the Scots in 1643 things really heated up.

Although it's often referred to as the English Civil War, in truth three wars were fought: the First English Civil War (1642–1646), which ended with the surrender and imprisonment of King Charles I; the Second English Civil War (1648–1649), which began after the king escaped and forged an alliance with the Scots, which ended in King Charles I's execution and Oliver Cromwell being made Lord Protector; and the Third English Civil War (1649–1651), in which Charles I's son, Charles II, laid his claim to the throne before withdrawing to France in defeat.

Newark was a strategic garrison for the Royalists during the First English Civil War, situated as it was at the

IN AND AROUND NF\\/ARK

THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE

This brand-new \pm 5.4m museum (right) in the historic town of Newark tells the story of the English Civil War using artefacts and video re-enactments, with a series of rolling exhibits upstairs. The National Civil War Trail, an app that explores key sites around the city, including Newark Castle and the Queen's Sconce (a 'fort' made of earth), also supports the museum. www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com

THE PRINCE RUPERT, NEWARK

This half-timbered medieval pub (far right) – named after King Charles I's nephew – is rich in history. Dating back to 1452, the pub has a doorway in its cellar that provided a secret exit to Newark Castle during the Civil War. Today, it serves hearty pub grub and real ale. www.kneadpubs.co.uk/our-pubs/the-prince-rupert

THE GRANGE, NEWARK

This family-run hotel offers cosy accommodation in 19 en-suite rooms, each with their own character, while the Cutler Restaurant (named after the antique



cutlery on display), has earned it an AA Rosette. www.grangenewark.co.uk

SOUTHWELL MINSTEI

This Norman church, built on the remains of its Saxon predecessor, was used as barracks for Parliamentarians



during the Civil War – Charles I spent his last night as a free man at the nearby Saracen's Head. King James VI of Scotland stopped here on his way to be crowned King James I of England in London in 1603, after Queen Elizabeth I's death, and declared it a "fair wee town." www.visitsouthwell.com

PHOTOS: © WORLD HISTORY ARCHIVE/MARTYN WILLIAMS/ALAMY/NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE

Archbishop's Palace & Southwell Minster - Southwell Hidden Gems in the Heart of Nottinghamshire

The medieval Archbishop's Palace and Minster at Southwell are steeped in history. Charles visited the Palace earlier in the Civil War en-route to Newark. By 1646 the town was in Parliamentarian control and Edward Cludd invited the Scottish Commissioners to reside in the Palace. It is reported that soon after Charles reached 'The King's Head' on May 5th he had to go to the Palace to



negotiate terms with the Scottish
Commissioners. Charles spent his initial moments of final captivity at the Archbishop's Palace. After the war, the Palace was partially destroyed. The only surviving building left is the magnificent Archbishop's State Chamber with its beautiful vaulted ceiling. The Education Garden is a new addition to the Archbishop's Palace and Minster and provides a wonderful landscape of wide open lawns, shrub borders and flowering plants. Southwell Minster suffered some damaged during the English Civil War and was used as stabling and stores for military supplies by the Scottish troops.

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VISIT HISTORIC NEWARK WHERE THE CIVIL WAR CAME TO ITS DRAMATIC CONCLUSION



NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE

The National Civil War Centre in Newark brings to life the brutal 17th-century conflicts which tore apart the three kingdoms of the British Isles. Feel the weight of our armour, try to demolish the Governor's House with our cannon-fire game and see personal stories of the civil war brought to life in our cinema.

Open every day 10-4, Adults £7, Concessions £6, Children £3.50

www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com



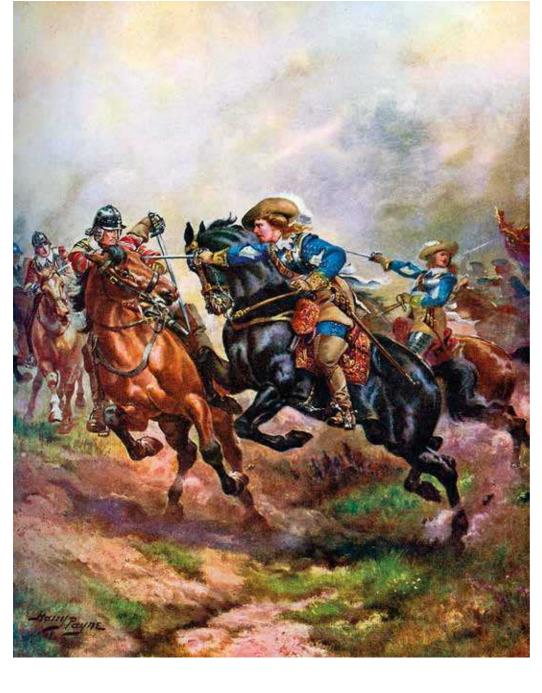
NEWARK CASTLE

Partially destroyed at the end of the Civil War, the remaining walls of Newark Castle stand proudly overlooking the River Trent. Relax in the award-winning gardens or take a guided tour of the Castle's towers and dungeons.

Open dawn to dusk every day of the year with free entry to the Castle site and gardens. Guided tours (Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday) – adults £5, children £2.50, family ticket £12.50. Further information from Newark TIC (01636 655765)

www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

www.britain-magazine.com



Clockwise, from left: A painting c1920, Prince Rupert's Cavalry Charging at Edgehill in 1642; the battlefield and memorial at Naseby; a portrait of Queen Henrietta Maria of France (1609-1669) by Sir Anthony van Dyck



crossroads of the Great North Road and the Fosse Way, which provided direct access to the Royalist headquarters at Oxford, and it was here that three significant sieges between Royalist forces and the Parliamentarians and their Scottish allies took place.

Charles enlisted his beloved nephew, Prince Rupert, Duke of Cumberland, a successful soldier, as General of the entire Royalist army and he also led the relief at Newark. For a while Rupert outwitted his opponents but the tide was turning: Rupert suffered a huge defeat by Oliver Cromwell and his New Model Army at the Battle of Naseby in June 1645 and when Charles visited Newark afterwards Rupert urged his uncle to make peace. An argument erupted in which Charles accused Rupert of surrendering another stronghold, Bristol, too easily. Rupert stormed off and Charles is said to have looked out of the window and wept.

By the following spring it was clear that the Royalist cause was lost and during the final and most brutal siege of

Newark, in which 16,000 troops sealed off the town for six months, a disguised King Charles escaped from Oxford and made contact with the Scottish army assailing the garrison

at Newark. By surrendering to the Scots Charles hoped to drive a wedge between them and their English

> Parliamentary allies, however they insisted that Newark must yield immediately.

The 1,800 Royalists walked out of Newark half-starved, with many disease-ridden following an outbreak of typhus and plague. Michael Constantine, manager at the National Civil War Centre, says, "Newark's capitulation signalled the end of what is often called the First Civil War - within three years King Charles was executed by Parliament.

It is an extraordinary tale, reflecting the bitterness, despair and bravery of the conflict.

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Above: The Rubens ceiling at Banqueting House was one of Charles I's last sights before he was executed on a scaffold outside

Left: Prince Rupert, Charles I's nephew, circa 1637 "When the Royalists initially debated their king's order to surrender Newark, the defiant mayor said it was better to 'Trust in God and sally forth'." This is still remembered today and has become the town's motto.

Among the exhibits at the National Civil War Centre is the buff coat and breastplate of Royalist John Hussey of Doddington Hall, Lincoln, who was killed by a Roundhead musket as he defended the town of Gainsborough in 1643 against an emerging Parliamentarian commander – Oliver Cromwell. Both still contain bullet holes. There is also a hand brander with the King Charles emblem, which would have been used to mark felons or deserters – a reminder of the brutality of war – while siege pieces (currency) show that despite the chaos some semblance of order was adhered to and people were still paid for doing their jobs. Perhaps the most poignant of artefacts, though, is the buff coat of Colonel Frances Hacker, who took Charles to his death on the scaffold at Banqueting House on 30 January 1649.

Charles was convicted of high treason against the people of England, though he refused to answer the charges, stating that he didn't recognise the authority of the High Court. Nevertheless, he was beheaded. Hacker, who had fought for the Parliamentarians while his brothers fought on the side of the Royalists, reportedly showed respect to Charles while the king was in custody and though he was eventually hanged in 1660, he escaped a traitor's death and his body was returned to his family.

Following the death of Charles, Oliver Cromwell was made Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland but his health was poor. He died aged 59 in 1658, perhaps of septicaemia, and was given an elaborate funeral at Westminster Abbey. Though his son succeeded him, he had little of the influence of his father and in 1659 the Long Parliament was reinstated, paving the way for King Charles II being invited back to be king of a restored monarchy the following year.

The impact of the English Civil War was phenomenal – it is estimated that almost 200,000 people died in England, around half from war-related diseases – with more deaths in Scotland and Ireland. But while the conflict was bloody, it left a legacy of placing limitations on power and of more tolerance for religious differences, at least in England.

Tor more stories on the history and struggles of Britain's royal households go to www.britain-magazine.com

CAVALIERS VS ROUNDHEADS

Cavaliers supported the king and believed in his divine right to rule. They were known for wearing their hair in longer ringlets or under wigs and wore more flamboyant clothing. Their nickname came from the French 'chevalier', meaning horse, which referred to the fact that most of them fought on horseback. While many came from poorer areas in the north of England, they were also made up of Roman Catholics and members of the nobility.

Roundheads were mainly Puritans whose nickname came from the cropped hairstyle they

favoured. Supporters comprised merchants, more militant MPs and people from wealthier parts of England, such as the south and east. They supported Parliament and believed only it had the right to impose taxes or levies on civilians.

Though initially most people chose sides depending on which army reached their town first, by 1644 and 1645 people began to switch allegiances.

It was not uncommon to see families split by their loyalties, with siblings and parents and their children often fighting on opposing sides.

74OTOS: © MILES WILLIS/HISTORICROYAL PALACES/GL ARCHIVE/ALAMY



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ritish Heritage Chauffeur Tours does exactly what its name suggests – providing personal guided tours of Great Britain for the discerning traveller. The specialist guides entertain you with enjoyable journeys filled with fun, culture and gastronomic delights, and pride themselves in making your days with them the most memorable time you will spend in Britain.

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enlighten while accompanying you on your adventures throughout the British Isles.

There are many incredible locations to be explored in Britain but it is Highclere Castle (top photo), the real-life setting for the successful TV series *Downton Abbey*, that is currently the most requested destination.

If this is your first visit to Britain then they have sample itineraries to get you started, while seasoned travellers might prefer something bespoke crafted to their own needs.

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Visit the rugged Peak District for a tour of magnificent Chatsworth House (inset) or go for dinner at the Michelin-starred Three Chimneys restaurant on the Isle of Skye. With the tercentenary of Capability Brown taking place in 2016, you may wish to visit some of the 150 stately homes where his landscapes can still be seen.

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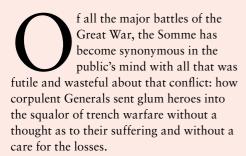
www.britain-magazine.com



SCENES FROM THE comme

A new book explores the realities of the Great War through pictures taken by British soldiers on the front line during the Battle of the Somme

WORDS RICHARD VAN EMDEN



But historians have come a long way since the 'lions led by donkeys' thesis was presented in the 1960s - many believe the British Army was fighting for a just cause and those who commanded the men were not blithering idiots: far from it. Nevertheless, the fighting on the Somme inflicted heinous casualties on all sides. It is there that the cream of Britain's volunteers fought for the first time in substantial numbers, the men of Kitchener's New Army including the men of the so-called Pals battalions: the Grimsby Chums, the Accrington Pals, the Bristol's Own. All these battalions were drawn from communities up and down the country, fused into battalions of a distinctly local hue.

It is almost a hundred years since the Battle of the Somme was launched and the last survivors died a decade ago. Yet their sacrifice lives on, not just in the letters, diaries and memoirs they left behind but in their own privately taken photographs.

Taking cameras to war was not illegal at the start of the war but all this changed after Christmas 1914, when British troops snapped images of each other meeting and greeting the Germans in No Man's Land – images that appeared in the press back home. The military authorities were furious at the fraternisation, but they were almost

as angry because men, usually officers, were selling their photographs to journalists back home. Soldiers could not be left to load, aim and shoot their cameras instead of their revolvers and rifles, and so cameras were banned on all fronts for the rest of the war.

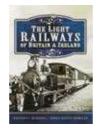
Happily for posterity, some men chose to ignore the order, hiding their cameras in their jackets, packs or sporrans to bring them out surreptitiously to capture extraordinary images of front line life on the Somme, images which in the main have never been seen in public ... until now. Pictures from the Somme (such as the examples here) are rare, but surviving snaps reveal the 'real' war as the soldiers witnessed it, in the trenches or at rest behind the lines, and not as the official photographer wanted it to be recorded.

Tor more on Britain's involvement in the First World War go to www.britain-magazine.com/WWI



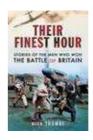


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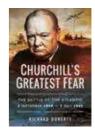
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(£25/\$38). First published in 1985, this book, which tells the story of Britain's last railway development, was unavailable for 25 years, until now.



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Churchill's Greatest Fear

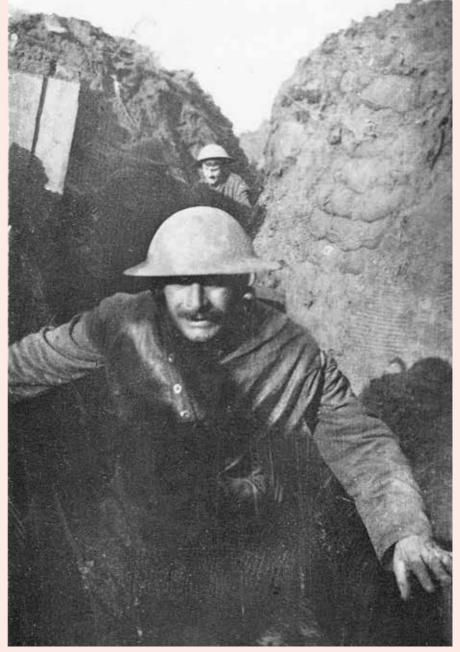
(£25/\$38) This superbly researched work covers all the major aspects of the Battle of the Atlantic, a strategic battle for the Allies.





Clockwise, from top left: In two weeks three of these officers would be dead; the front line at Beaumont Hamel, November 1916; men of the 1/6th Seaforth Highlanders in a front line trench in September 1915; horses enjoy the sun in the centre of Bouzincourt, August 1915

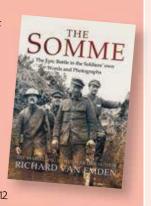






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London Heritage





In the first of a new series exploring London's oldest places, we visit its first restaurant, where King Edward VII once wooed his mistress Lillie Langtry

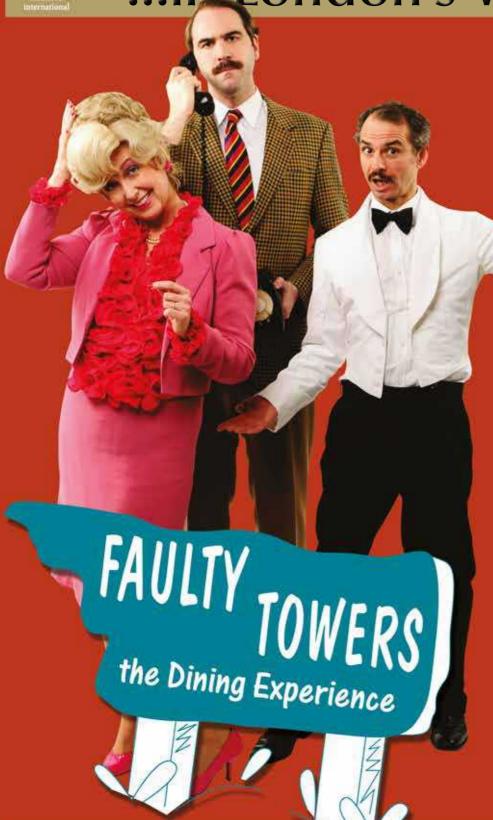
WORDS SALLY COFFEY

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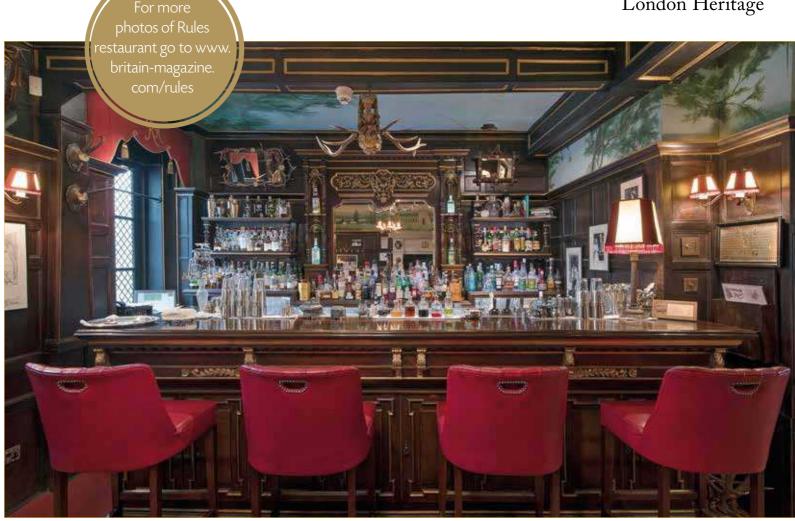
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ucked away on Maiden Lane in London's Covent Garden, Rules, which was established in 1798, is the oldest surviving restaurant in London and a beacon of English refinement.

Over the years the great and good of British society have entertained here - from the Royal Family and politicians to stars of stage and screen. Buster Keaton, Stan Laurel, Charlie Chaplin and Laurence Olivier have all dined at Rules, as well as literary heavyweights, such as Charles Dickens, HG Wells and Graham Greene.

Rules restaurant was opened as an oyster bar by Thomas Rule in the late 18th century and before long writers were lauding its "porter, pies and oysters" which attracted a clientele comprising "rakes, dandies and superior intelligences".

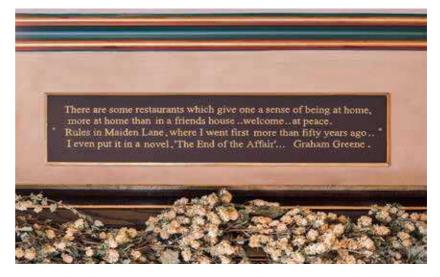
Its famous red velvet booths and crisp white linen tablecloths are the result of an 1873 makeover and during the Second World War the structure of the building was reinforced with thick wood to ensure it could stay open - albeit only between 1pm and 3pm and offering rationed meals, though diners could eat copious amounts of pheasant, grouse and rabbit, which were not rationed.

Today the menu has moved on little from these origins. The emphasis is on traditional British fare, which includes oysters, pies and game, with dishes such as braised pheasant and roast red leg partridge served using impeccably sourced ingredients – Rules prides itself on having forged strong relationships with British shepherds and farmers, and through its Lartington Estate in Yorkshire it works closely with local game dealers.

A number of writers have immortalised Rules in literature – the restaurant has appeared in novels by Evelyn Waugh, John le Carré and Dick Francis - yet it is regular Graham Greene who has been rewarded with a room upstairs. In the private dining room that takes his name, letters from Greene to his sister Elisabeth are displayed on the walls and there is even a display cabinet of the writer's personal whisky collection, which featured in the film adaptation of his novel, Our Man in Havana.

Here, too, you can see a quote from the author of Brighton Rock, which reads: "There are some restaurants which give one a sense of being at home, more at home than in a friend's house... welcome... at peace. Rules in

Top to bottom: King Edward VII would sneak upstairs, which now houses a cocktail bar, to meet his mistress Lillie Langtry; the writer Graham Greene has a room named after him at Rules

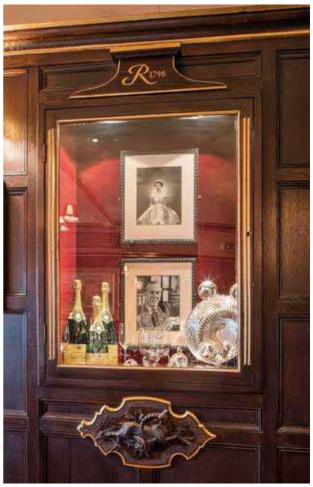


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Left: The allegorical oil painting by John Springs of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

Below: Photos of HM The Queen are on display alongside famous patrons such as Graham Greene



PHOTOS: @ TONY MURRAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Maiden Lane, where I went first more than 50 years ago... I even put it in a novel, *The End of the Affair*."

Rules formed the backdrop to two clandestine meetings between the main characters of Bendrix and Sarah in *The End of the Affair* and in a case of art imitating life, some decades before Greene published his novel, a very real love affair was unfolding in the upstairs room of Rules. Here the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) would sneak his mistress Lillie Langtry up a side staircase where they could dine away from prying eyes.

Today this part of the building has been turned into a lavish cocktail bar, which feels very much as though you've stumbled upon a piece of hidden London. It's the perfect spot for a pre-theatre cocktail or you can enjoy a full restaurant menu here from 12pm to 4pm. Red velvet couches and a hunting frieze salvaged from The Savoy hotel give the place a period feel. There is even a painting near where the Prince of Wales and his lover would have sat that acts as a reminder for their illicit meetings.

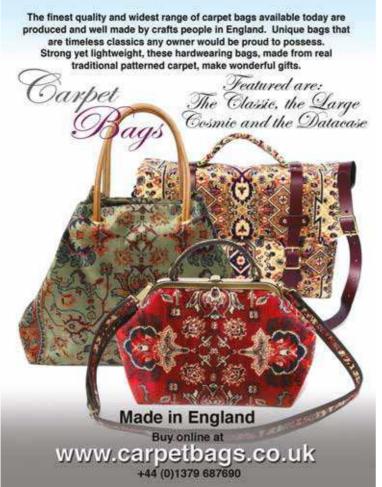
In 1971 Rules was at risk of demolition and so its managing director, a Mr Woods, wrote to poet and historic buildings advocate, Sir John Betjeman, and asked him to write to the Greater London Council imploring it not to let Rules suffer the same fate as the Café Royal,

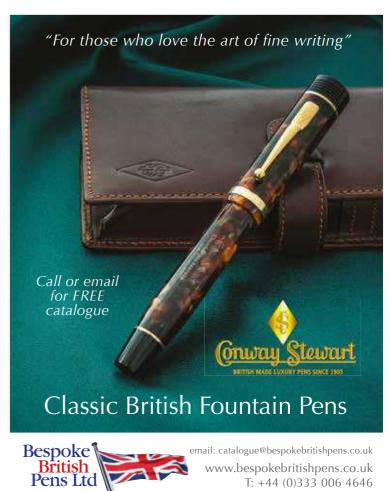
Regent Street, which was refurbished in 1923 and, according to Betjeman, lost some allure in the process.

Betjeman gave evidence defending the restaurant, saying: "Not just because Rules is an excellent restaurant but because its interior on the ground floor is unique and irreplaceable and part of literary and theatrical London. As at present furnished, its interior is historic. Its paintings, prints, busts, bronze figurines, red plush seats, stained glass as well as the playbills and theatrical relics, some of which often go back to earlier than 1873, make it a restaurant very much as it was when it was first newly furnished in 1873." Thankfully Betjeman's testimony worked and the restaurant was saved for prosperity. From the moment you arrive when you are greeted by a uniformed doorman until taking your seat surrounded by hundreds of drawings, paintings and cartoons, depicting over 200 years of history, it's clear this is a restaurant very much rooted in the past.

The allegorical oil painting of ex-Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, which was commissioned by the restaurant, might not be to everybody's taste, but the inclusion of Rules in the most recent James Bond film, *Spectre*, proves that the restaurant is every bit a bastion of British heritage as it once was.

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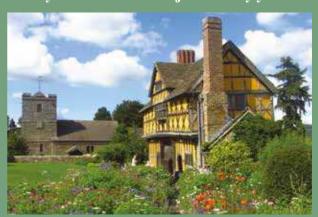


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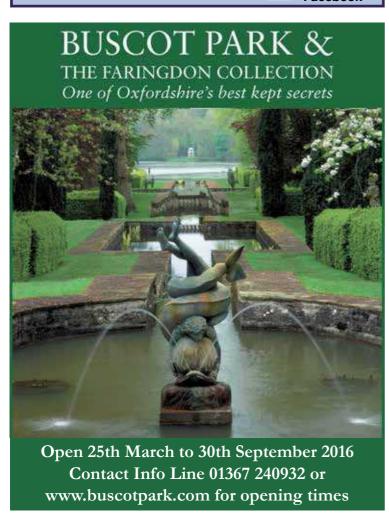
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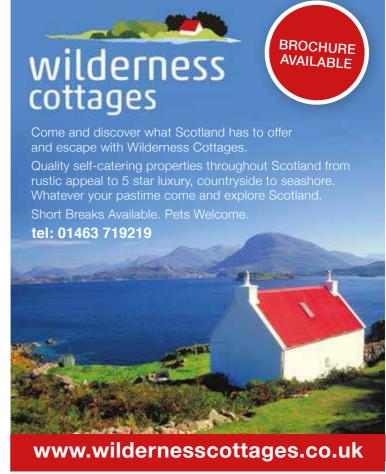


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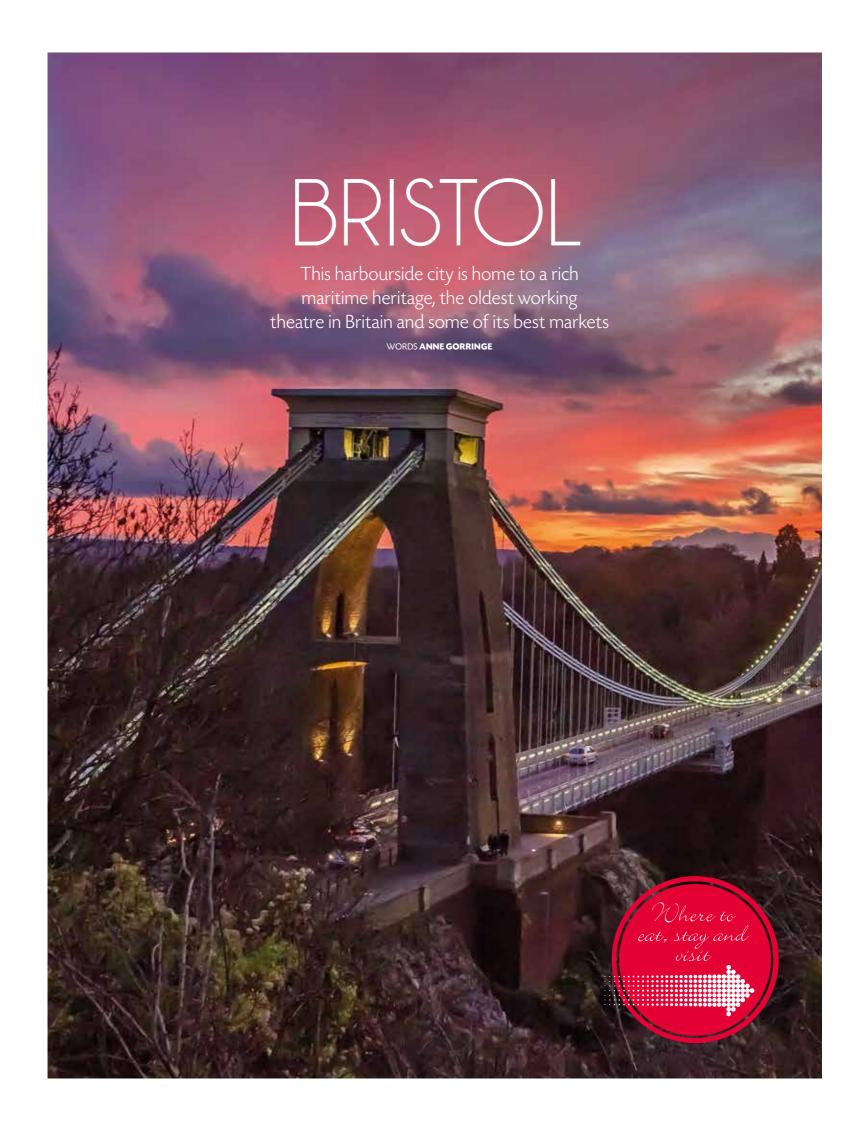
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ST MARY REDCLIFFE CHURCH, WHICH WAS ONCE DESCRIBED BY QUEEN ELIZABETH I AS "THE FAIREST, GOODLIEST, AND MOST FAMOUS PARISH CHURCH IN ENGLAND"

Front page: Clifton Suspension Bridge. Clockwise, from top left: St Nicholas Market; Banksy's street art on Frogmore Street; Bristol Cathedral; the city's Floating Harbour; Bristol Old Vic theatre; Bristol Planetarium and Millennium Square; the Royal West of **English Academy** in Clifton. Centre: The SS Great Britain

alk through the trees of Bristol's Brandon Hill, in the city's West End and it's easy to imagine yourself in a country park. In fact, the beauty of this stunning location is its position, mere yards from the upmarket shops of Georgian Park Street.

Brandon Hill is one of more than 450 parks and gardens in a city that (proportionately) has more green spaces than any other in the UK. It's also one of the best vantage points to look down on a city packed full of history and heritage, which stretches back to at least 1051 when it appeared in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

The oldest parts of the city have retained their cobbled streets. In King Street – named after King Charles II – Bristol Old Vic has staged performances since 1766, making it the longest continuously-running theatre in Britain.

Along the street, the Llandoger Trow inn, built in 1664, is a famous historic haunt of sailors and one of the last timber-built buildings in the city. Author Daniel Defoe is said to have been inspired to write *Robinson Crusoe* here after meeting the mariner Alexander Selkirk and hearing his tale of being marooned on an island for four years.

Nearby, leafy Queen Square is home to the old Custom House where the taxes used to be collected from the ships that came into the city's ancient harbour, which grew on the back of the 18th-century trades of slavery and tobacco.

Back on Brandon Hill there are links to the city's maritime past too: at the summit is Cabot Tower, a Victorian folly, built in 1897 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of John Cabot's voyage from Bristol to America in 1497. Today, a replica of his wooden ship, *The Matthew*, sits in the Floating Harbour, along with another of Britain's most acclaimed ships, the *SS Great Britain*. Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, it was the first iron-hulled, propeller-driven ship to cross the Atlantic and launched here in 1843.

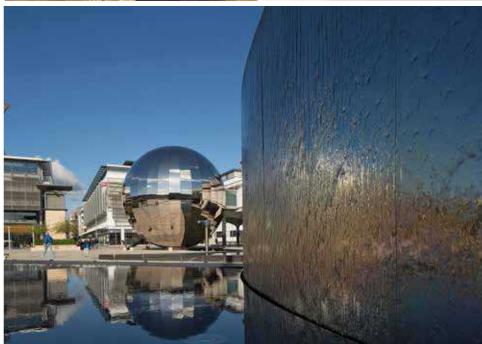
Cranes outside the M-Shed museum would have been used to relieve the ships of their heavy loads. One, the striking 1878 banana-shaped Fairbairn steam crane, is the oldest surviving exhibit of its type in Britain.

















CUT-OUT-AND-GO GUIDE: BRISTOL

GETTING THERE

Bristol is in the south-west of England, on the direct line from London Paddington. From the north, direct trains travel down from Edinburgh and Manchester, each passing through Birmingham. www.nationalrail.co.uk

If you're driving, the M4 directly links Bristol with London to the east and Wales to the west while the M5 is perfect for heading north, or south.

Bristol has its own airport with daily direct flights to most European destinations, including Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Newcastle. Flights with KLM via Amsterdam link to worldwide destinations. www.bristolairport.co.uk

WHERE TO STAY

There are plenty of good hotel chains located around the harbourside.
Luxury options include the Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel next to the cathedral.
www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/brsry-bristol-marriott-royal-hotel

In a Georgian townhouse on the edge of Clifton Village, Number 38 (top right) is a boutique hotel with 10 bedrooms. www.number38clifton.com

Next to the old market area in town, Brooks Guesthouse promises boutique B&B. In a quirky twist, four of the rooms are actually luxury airstream silver caravans. www.brooksguesthousebristol.com

Animal-lovers can spend the night at Bristol Zoo Gardens where an evening in a lodge (above right) includes an after-hours zoo tour followed by dinner cooked by your own private chef. www.bristolzoo.org.uk/explore-the-zoo/the-lodge





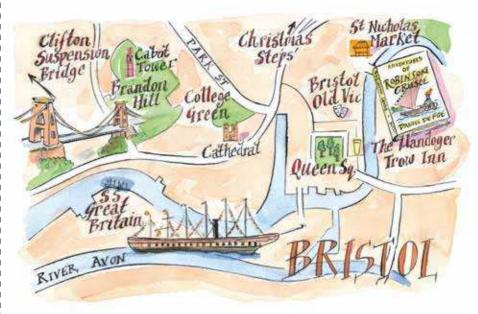
WHERE TO EAT

The trend for sourcing food locally, and going organic is big in Bristol. On the harbourside, gems include Bordeaux Quay restaurant and brasserie in a converted 1920s warehouse, which has its own cookery school. www.bordeaux-quay.co.uk

Source Food Hall and Cafe, in the heart of St Nicholas Market, is a deli, a butcher, a fishmonger and café all in one. www.source-food.co.uk

Eat in a former Quaker meeting house, the location for Raymond Blanc's Brasserie Blanc, offering authentic French cuisine near the main shops of Cabot Circus.

wwwbrasserieblanc.com/restaurants/bristol



CUT-OUT-AND-GO GUIDE: BRISTOL



- Blackbeard on a walking tour through the city, which starts on College Green. Tours visit the harbourside and end with a barrel of rum. www.visitbristol.co.uk
- JOIN a guided ferryboat tour around the harbour for a great way to learn about the city's maritime history. Bristol Packet Boat Trips runs tours from April to October, while Bristol Ferry Boats operates year round.

 www.bristolpacket.co.uk; www.bristolferry.com
- VISIT a Victorian open air lido (above). The Clifton Lido has been beautifully renovated and reopened with a spa and top-class restaurant. Look out for 'dine and swim packages'.

 www.lidobristol.com
- **EXPERIENCE** a visit to Ashton Court, the green oasis on the edge of the city, complete with deer herds and a beautiful mansion. Bristol's hot air balloon fiesta is held here every August. www.ashton.court.bower-ashton.co.uk
- SPEND an afternoon in Clifton Village, where you'll find great pubs, interesting shops and a vintage arcade dating back to 1878.

 Combined with a walk across Brunel's famous Suspension Bridge, a trip to Clifton is unmissable. www.discoverclifton.co.uk



Live like a local

Philip Snell, 63, an antiques dealer, is co-owner of Monty's in Clifton Arcade and makes 'retro' boxes

* I've lived and travelled all over the world but Bristol is the best place I have ever lived. It's been good enough to keep me here, working in antiques, for the last 35 years and I've had my current shop inside the old Clifton Arcade for the last 16 years.

* It's the history, heritage, lifestyle and social life — Bristol is second to none. It's a stunning city surrounded by beautiful countryside.

* In my spare time I love anything to do with sport and support all the local teams including Bristol City football club, Clifton Rugby Club and Gloucestershire cricket team.

www.retroboxes.co.uk

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CAPTAIN BLACKBEARD

Born Edward
Teach in Bristol's
harbourside in
1680, the infamous
pirate Captain
Blackbeard once
had a hideaway
cave under
Bristol's St Mary
Redcliffe church

North of the harbourside another historic gem, Bristol's cathedral, majestically sits on College Green. Nearby, look out for artwork by world-famous graffiti artist Banksy – it's a fun, quirky piece showing a naked figure hanging out of a painted window on the side of a building on Frogmore Street.

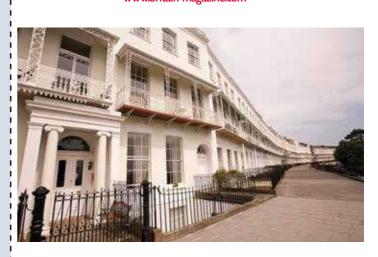
Traditionalists might prefer the Royal West of England Academy, which has a regular programme of art exhibitions, together with the city's iconic Museum and Art Gallery, dating back to 1823.

Hilly Park Street is where you'll find a few of the independent shops for which Bristol is renowned. Larger department stores can be found at Cabot Circus shopping mall in the centre. But one of the oldest shopping streets is the ancient Christmas Steps, tucked away close to the Hippodrome Theatre. The street still bears a stone plaque to explain how it was 'steppered done and finished in September 1669', creating the cobbled slopes and steps that remain today.

St Nicholas Market dates back to 1743 and is the oldest and best-loved market in Bristol. Today sacks of corn have been replaced with hand-crafted jewellery but this buzzing market place remains on Corn Street, a short stroll from the hotels in central Bristol.

Outside are the unique brass pillars, which were used for the exchange of money between traders and customers – leading to the phrase 'paying on the nail'. The oldest is believed to be from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, while others, inscribed with dates around 1630, are a real example of Bristol's trading history.

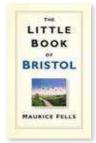
Tor more on Bristol and its history go to www.britain-magazine.com



Book bag



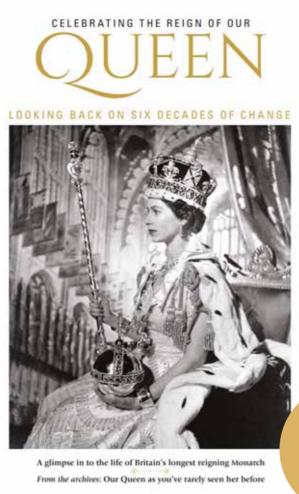
Bristol (Pevsner Architectural Guides: City Guides) by Andrew Foyle (Yale University Press, £12.50)



The Little Book of Bristol by Maurice Fells. (The History Press, £9.99.)

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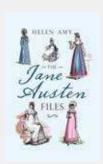


Get in touch with your views about the country, your travels and the magazine

OUR FAVOURITE LETTER A CHILDHOOD IN CHILHAM

I was delighted to see a picture of Chilham village in your November issue (Volume 83, Issue 5). In 1921, when my parents were living in Africa, I was sent to boarding school in England and every Christmas I stayed at Chilham Castle in Kent, as my parents were friends of Sir Edmund Davis who owned Chilham.

Years later I took my wife to Hever Castle and nearby Knole and its magnificent deer park. It reminded me of how walking in the deer park at Chilham as a young boy, I bumped into an amiable gentleman who started to extol the beauties



surrounding him. I was somewhat startled when he said: "To think that all this loveliness belongs to me." I was forced to politely point out that I was staying at the castle as a guest of the owner. The gentleman laughed and said, "Oh yes, Sir Edmund



may be the owner and I am merely one of his tenants but while he sits up there in his attic office I am the one who enjoys it all." Maurice Rooney, Victoria, Australia

Our favourite letter wins a copy of The Jane Austen Files: A Complete Anthology of Letters & Family Recollections by Helen Amy (£25, Amberley). This lovely book looks at one of England's greatest novelists through the eyes of those who knew her best. www.amberley-books.com

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Meet the people, see the smiles, Roam the counties, walk for miles,

Conquer mountains, see the coasts,

Try the famous Sunday roasts, Drink the whisky, drink the beer, Marvel at the cultures here, Visit Scotland, see the glens, Through your eyes or through a lens,

Watch the sunsets in the west, That is Ireland at its best, Channel Islands, Isle of Wight, Shetlands for the Northern lights, Fish the rivers, walk the dales, Seeped in history, hear the tales, Palaces and castles stand, Waterways snake through the land,

Know the heritage and laws, Read of battles, read of wars, Rulers, monarchs of the ages, Archived in the history pages, Come and ride the railway, Through Snowdonia today, As the light fades, day is done, Go to Stonehenge, watch the sun, John O'Groats down to

Land's End, Wales to Ireland, families, friends, Meet the people, see the smiles, Come explore the British Isles. Joanne Jervis, West Midlands, UK

INFAMOUS MISPRINT

In the November (Volume 83, Issue 5) issue you referred to the "infamous Battle of Trafalgar in 1805". Since the battle was a brilliant victory that prevented Napoleon from invading Britain, and contributed to Pax Britannica

lasting until the outbreak of World War I, I certainly hope that "infamous" is a misprint.

Robert Ward, Kentucky, USA BRITAIN REPLIES: With hindsight, we agree that although Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson was killed at Trafalgar, it was a bad choice of word to describe such a decisive naval victory.



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I would rather be there, very cosy. I could get a lot of writing done. I wonder what's on the bookshelf...



















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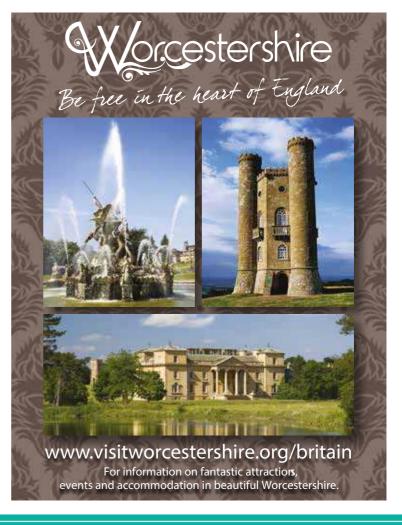
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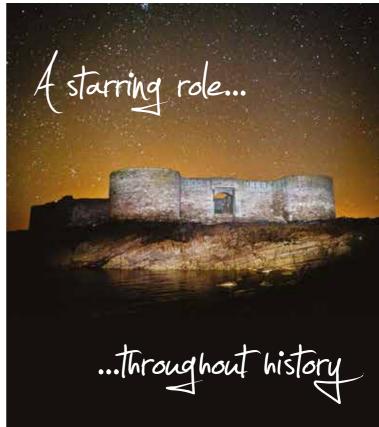




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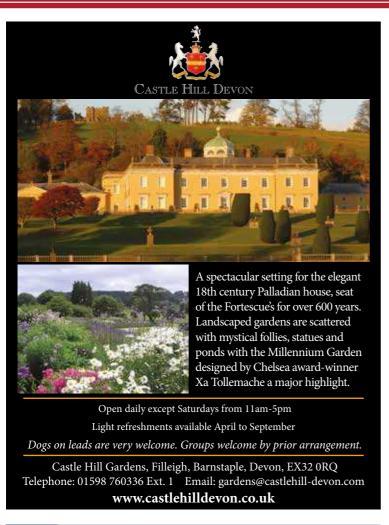
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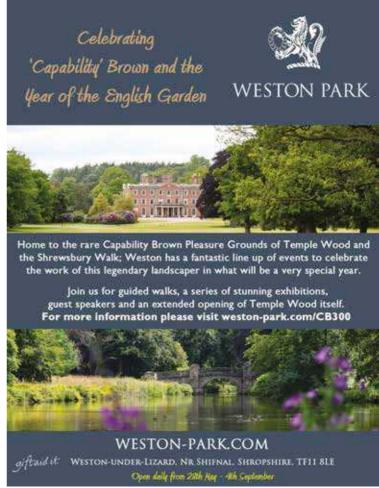
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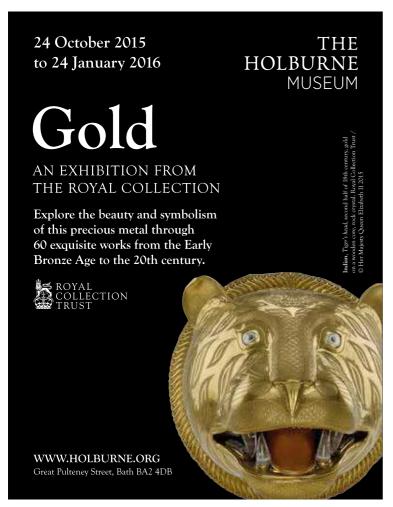


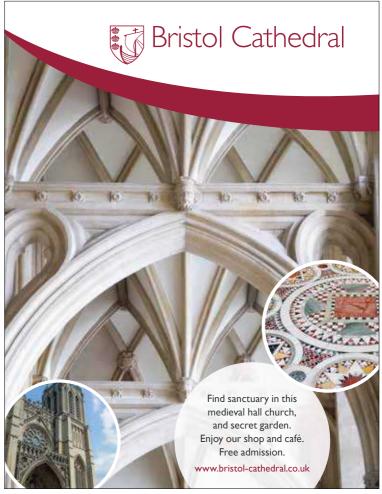
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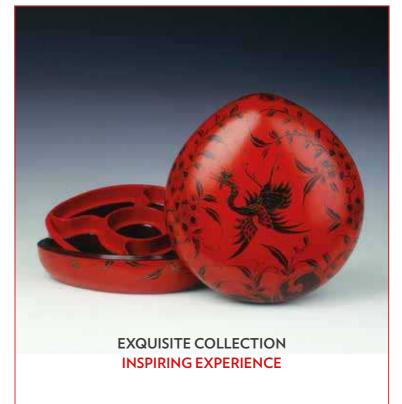
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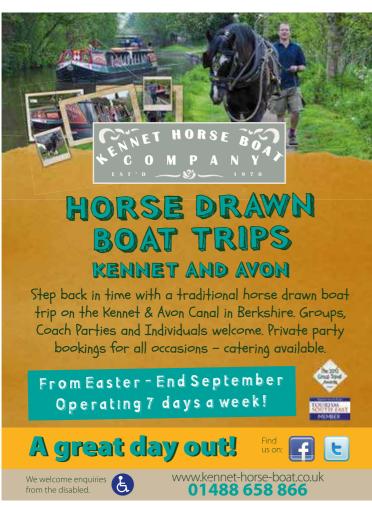


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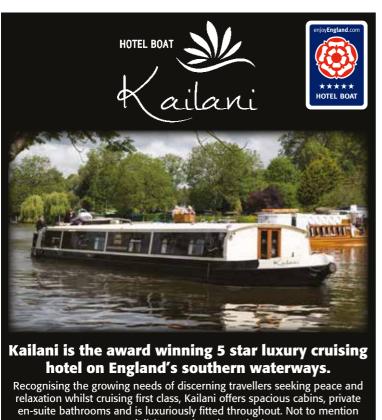


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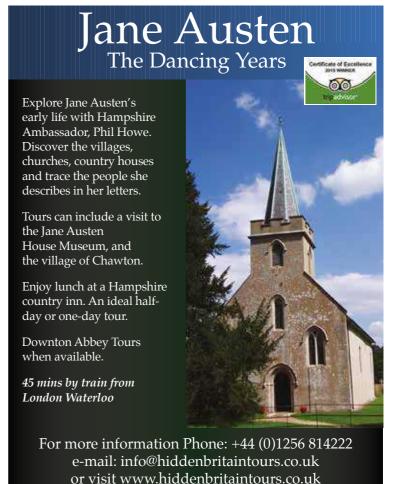
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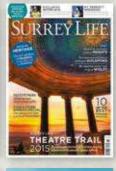




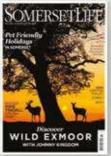




























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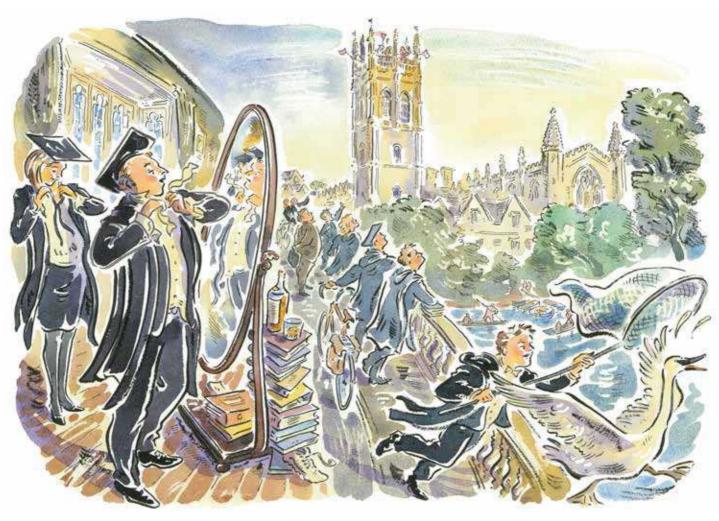


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University challenged

Do you know what a whiffler is or where clocks are set five minutes after Greenwich Mean Time? Let us guide you through the weird and wonderful world of Oxbridge traditions

The worlds of Oxbridge – a portmanteau of the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge, the two oldest universities in Britain – exhibit their own peculiarities of language and traditions that have been passed down through history and which exemplify the world-famous sense of British eccentricity. For example, at Oxford, your battels (coined in the Tudor-Stuart era) are your college bills; if you failed an exam, you ploughed it; and academic nudity was the appearance in public without a cap or gown. At Cambridge, in Victorian times, a brute was one who had not matriculated and a sophister (coined in 1574) was an undergraduate in his second or third year. In both places a whiffler was the name for someone who examined candidates for degrees.

Sub fusc is the name for the full academic dress that must be worn at certain events, such as formal exams, both at Oxford and Cambridge universities. The exact dress varies according to what degree you are taking (i.e. whether you're doing a Bachelor of Arts or a Master's) or if you have a scholarship, for instance those without scholarships wear a shorter gown while DPhil (PhD) graduates wear a scarlet robe. Traditionally, men must wear a black suit, a white shirt and a white bow tie, while women are required to wear a black skirt, black tie or ribbon and a white shirt. However, since 2012 at Oxford, both genders can wear the other gender's sub fusc.

Other traditions are dictated by the time of year. May Morning at Oxford marks the coming of spring on 1 May, when people gather at

6am on Magdalen Bridge to hear choristers sing madrigals at the top of Magdalen Tower. On top of the roof of a different Oxford college, Lincoln, on Ascension Day students hurl down hot pennies to waiting children from local schools. In the past, the coins were supposed to be a lesson in discouraging greed but these days the children are free to pick up the pennies to boost their pocket money.

Over at Cambridge University the Fellows of St John's College are the only people outside the Royal Family legally allowed to eat unmarked mute swans. Swan traps were originally built into the walls of the college alongside the river. The Crown retains the right to ownership of all unmarked mute swans in open water, but the Queen only exercises her ownership on certain stretches of the Thames and its surrounding tributaries.

Before the advent of railways, Britain operated on different local times. Oxford time was five minutes later than Greenwich and in recognition of this a lot of lectures still start at five minutes past the hour. Christ Church's Tom Tower still sounds 101 times every night at 9.05pm to celebrate the college's founding scholars who used to be alerted in this way that the college gates were closing. Time, it would seem, can stand still, in certain institutions at least.

Adam Jacot de Boinod is the author of *The Meaning of Tingo and Other Extraordinary Words from around the World*, published by Penguin Books, and the creator of the iPhone app Tingo, a quiz on interesting words.

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